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Should people be more educated on Type 1 Diabetes ?

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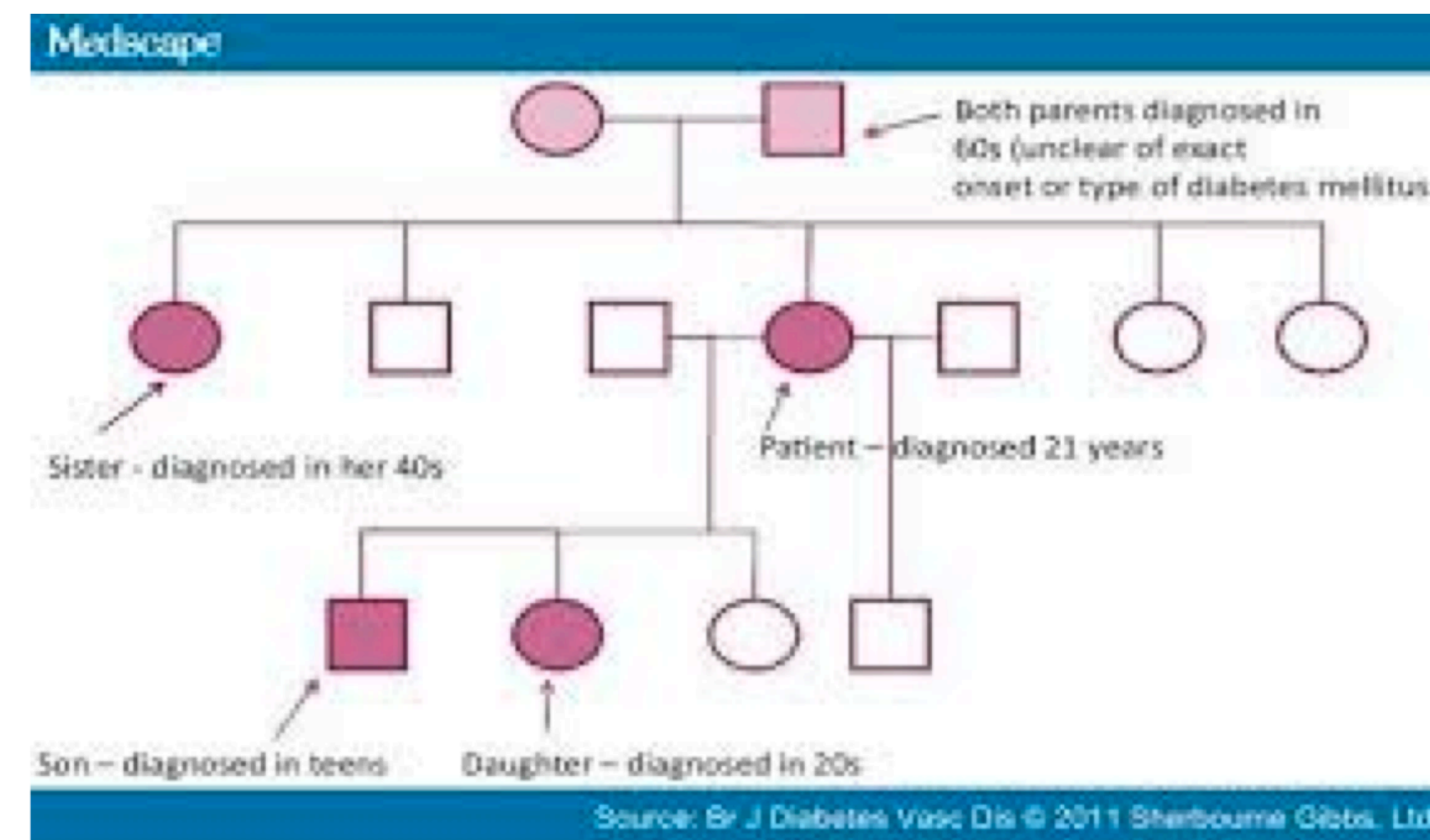
Abstract

Many people know about so many diseases that are happening in the world today yet Type 1 Diabetes remains a mystery.

Type I Diabetes (TD1) is an autoimmune disease in which a person's pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone that enables people to get enough energy from food. Research on this topic is important because many children and young adults are diagnosed with the disease yet the education is lacking.

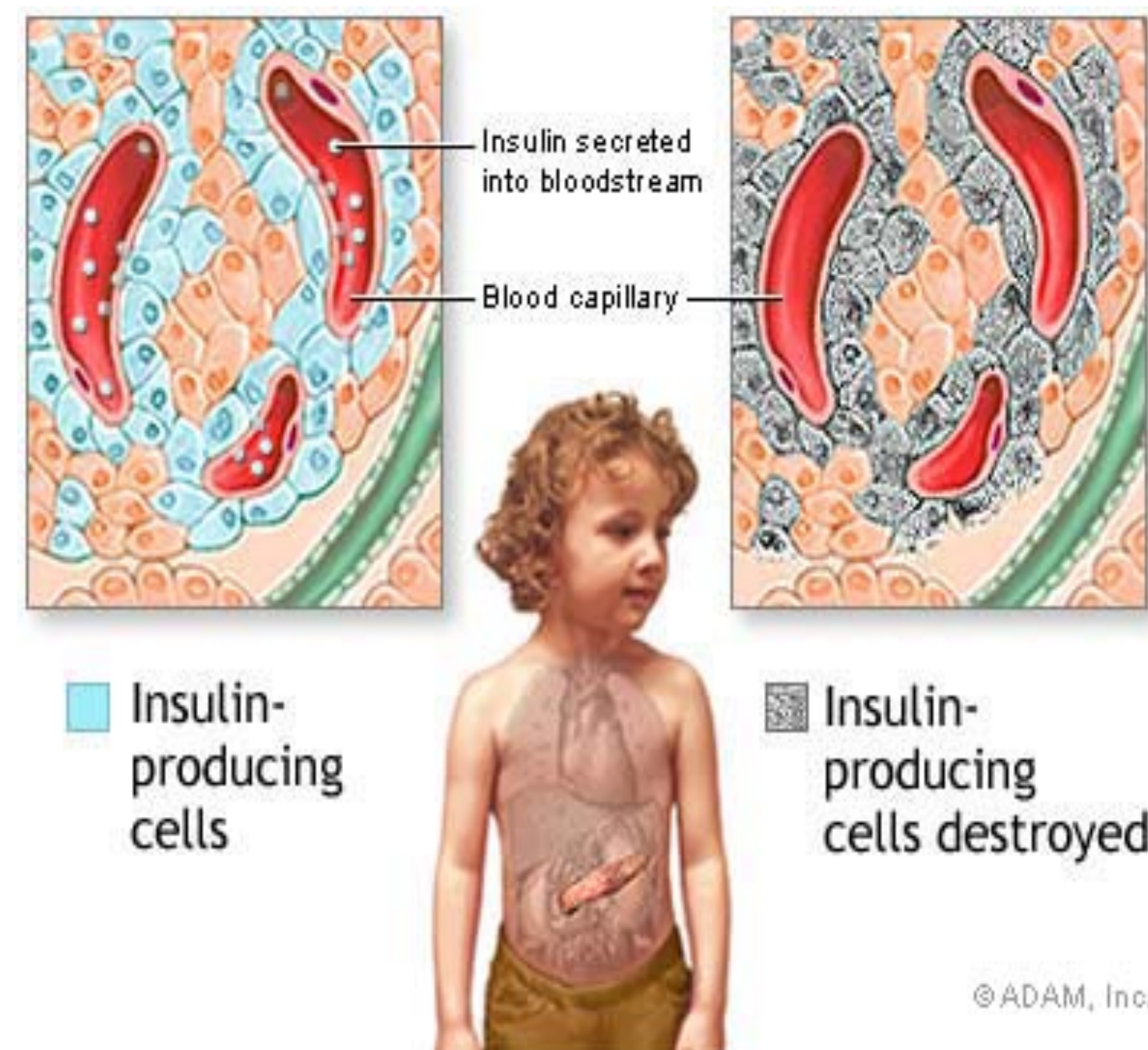
Key Facts

- Each year, more than 15,000 children and adults are diagnosed with TD1 (approximately 80 people per day).
- HLA genes encode glycoprotein's that are found on the surfaces of most cells and help immune systems to distinguish between self (its own cells e.g., beta cells of the pancreas) and non-self (e.g., bacteria viruses)
- TD1 has short- term and long-term complications such as: diabetic ketoacidosis, hypoglycemia, and macro-vascular complications.
- Approximately 85% of people living with TD1 are adults while the remaining 15 % are children.



A view of a family pedigree where TD1 is present. The purple shading represents the people who have been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/752635_2



This image shows the difference between a person who does not have any insulin producing cells vs. a person who does have insulin producing cells.
<http://www.nytimes.com/health/guides/disease/diabetes/overview.html>

Conclusion & Discussion

Findings showed that Type 1 Diabetes education should be increased because many children and young adults get the disease, there are many long and short term complications, its genetically passed down, and education about the disease is limited.

Findings also show that there are organizations starting to form and spread the word on Type 1 Diabetes. An example of one of the organizations is Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). This is a main organization that spreads information to the people who have the disease or know someone who does. Whether JDRF spreads the word or general public, school should also teach students about the disease to help further knowledge about Type 1 Diabetes.

Future Research

Opportunities for future research include finding out why there are so many complications to the disease, what the lifetime disease management cost is to patients and how these costs compare to other chronic diseases.

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