



Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)

1800 Kcal Daily

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is a condition in which a woman without diabetes develops any degree of glucose intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy.

GDM is caused by a placenta that makes hormones resisting the actions of insulin that cause glucose to build up in the blood. GDM raises the risk of getting type 2 Diabetes Mellitus later in life so any pregnant woman should visit and follow up regularly during pregnancy and after delivery.



Be aware of GDM complications:

- Incidence of frequent Urinary tract infection.
- Dystocia (Obstructed labor).
- Abortion.
- Fetal Macrosomia (large baby).
- Fetal congenital anomalies (birth defect).

Blood Glucose level ranges:

- Fasting Blood Glucose should be 70 105
 mg/dl
 (Equivalent 3.9 5.8 mmol/l)
- 2 hours after meal should be 70 120 mg/dl
 (Equivalent 3.9 6.7 mmol/l)
- Controlled Blood Glucose level within normal ranges is the best way to prevent diabetes mellitus type 2 and its complications.

Symptoms of Hypoglycemia:

- Polyphagia
- Sweating
- Rapid heartbeat
- Dizziness and Syncope
- Confusion and Trembling
- Feeling irritable
- Poor concentration
- Blurred vision
- Coma

Symptoms of Hyperglycemia:

- Polydipsia
- Fatigue
- Polyuria
- Loss of appetite and feeling vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dizziness and Hyperventilation
- Slow wound healing





General Guidelines:

- ✓ Follow a healthy diet plan to meet the nutrition requirements of pregnancy and manage blood glucose levels.
- ✓ Distribute the foods between three meals and two or three snacks at the same time each day to help and keep the blood glucose at a stable level.
- ✓ Follow the diet plan that is provided by a clinical dietitian with the same serving size and you can exchange any type of food from an exchange lists groups.
- ✓ Read the food label before purchasing any product to know the calories, fats and sugar content.
- ✓ Always check the blood glucose before and after meals and record the results for follow up visiting.

Prohibited foods:

Sugar, honey, sweetened juices, soda, ice cream, Middle Eastern sweets, cake, chocolate, jelly, custard, cream caramel, pastries like donuts and croissant, dried fruits, jam, sugar preserved food, evaporated milk, mayonnaise, ready-made salad dressing, whole fat cheddar cheese, cream cheese, fried foods, fast foods and all kinds of sweets.

Make Sure to:

- ✓ Substitute whole fat milk and dairy products with low fat or skimmed products.
- ✓ Eat only 2-3 dates per day as one exchange of fruit in the diet plan.
- ✓ Substitute white bread with brown bread.
- ✓ Consume high fiber foods, like brown bread and green leafy vegetables according to your diet

- plan. Fiber takes a long time to digest and increases the feelings of fullness. It also helps to control the blood glucose level within the normal range and prevents constipation.
- ✓ Do not add sugar to foods and beverages. Also, avoid using artificial sugar substitutes as the effect on the infant is not clear.
- ✓ Limit caffeine-containing beverages like coffee, tea, chocolate or soda since it interferes with iron and calcium absorption.
- ✓ Drink 6-8 cups of water daily.

Nutritional Guidelines:

✓ Prepare the foods with proper ways (boiling, grilling and steaming) and avoid frying. Also, remove excess meat fat and chicken skin before cooking.

- Avoid processed and junk foods that contain high fat and sugar.
- ✓ Substitute Maggi and sauces with spices and herbs because they contain a high amount of salt.
- ✓ limit intake of salt and foods rich in Sodium.
- Consume raw fruit instead of juices because it contains high fiber.
- ✓ Substitutes sweetened juices with nature juice because sweetened juices have low nutritional value and rich in sugar.
- ✓ Consume dark green leafy vegetables that contain high iron to prevent anemia and to increase the absorption of iron it is better to add vitamin C like lemon or tomato to the salad.

Diet Plan (1800 kcal per day)



• Breakfast:

- 1 cup of low-fat milk or laban without sugar.
- 1/4 Arabic brown bread or 1 slice brown toast.
- 1 boiled egg or 30 gm (2 tbsp.) low-fat white
 cheese or 2 slices low-fat cheese.
- Slices of cucumber, tomato or lettuce.

Snack:

½ cup unsweetened juice or 1 exchange of fruit

• Lunch:

- ½ cup of low-fat milk or laban without sugar.
- A green salad without fat.
- 90 gm of chicken, meat or fish (equal half chicken breast, chicken thigh or 6 tbsp. of meat or chicken minced)
- ½ cup cooked vegetable without add potato
 and without fat.
- $-\frac{1}{2}$ cup (6 tbsp.) of rice or pasta or groats.
- 1 slice of brown bread
- ½ cup unsweetened juice or 1 exchange of fruit.

Snack:

½ cup low-fat milk without sugar + 4 pieces
 unsweetened biscuits.

Dinner:

Same lunch meal but without fruit exchange,
 and can exchange meat or chicken with (6
 tbsp. beans without fat or low-fat cheese)

• Snack:

½ cup low-fat milk or laban without sugar +
 half sandwich (1 slice brown bread + one egg
 or 2 slices cheese).

Food exchange lists

Milk group:

³/₄ cup whole fat milk, 1 cup low-fat milk, 1 ¹/₄ cup skim milk, 1 cup low-fat yogurt, 1 cup low-fat laban, 1/3 cup low-fat powder milk, ¹/₂ cup evaporated milk.

Vegetable group:

1 cup raw vegetables, ½ cup cooked vegetables, ½ cup tomato juice.

Fruit group:

One orange, one apple, one peach, ½ piece of grapefruit, ½ piece of a small mango, 2 slices of watermelon or melon, 15 pieces of small grapes or 8 pieces of large grapes, 2-3 pieces of dates, ½ cup unsweetened juice, ¼ cup mango or pineapple.

Starch group:

One medium potato, 1 slice of brown or white toast, ¼ Arabic brown or white bread, ½ brown or white hotdog sandwich, ½ hamburger burger, 4 pieces of small unsweetened biscuits, ½ cup of cereal, 2 tbsp. grits, 2 pieces of rusk, ½ cup of peas, ½ cup of corn.

Fats group:

1 tsp. of butter, margarine or oil, 1 tsp. mayonnaise, 2 tsp. tahini, 5 pieces olives, 6 pieces of almonds,1 tbsp. reduced-fat mayonnaise or margarine, 1 tbsp. nuts, 1 tbsp. cream cheese.

Note: Avoid consuming these foods.

Meat group:

30gm cooked meat, chicken or fish, ¼ cup tuna canned in water, whole egg or 3 egg whites, 30gm (2 tbsp.) low-fat cheese or labna, ¼ cottage cheese, 5 pieces of prawns, ½ cup lentils or beans.



