

Hypoglycemia Due to Insulin Administration When Patient's Meals Had Been Stopped

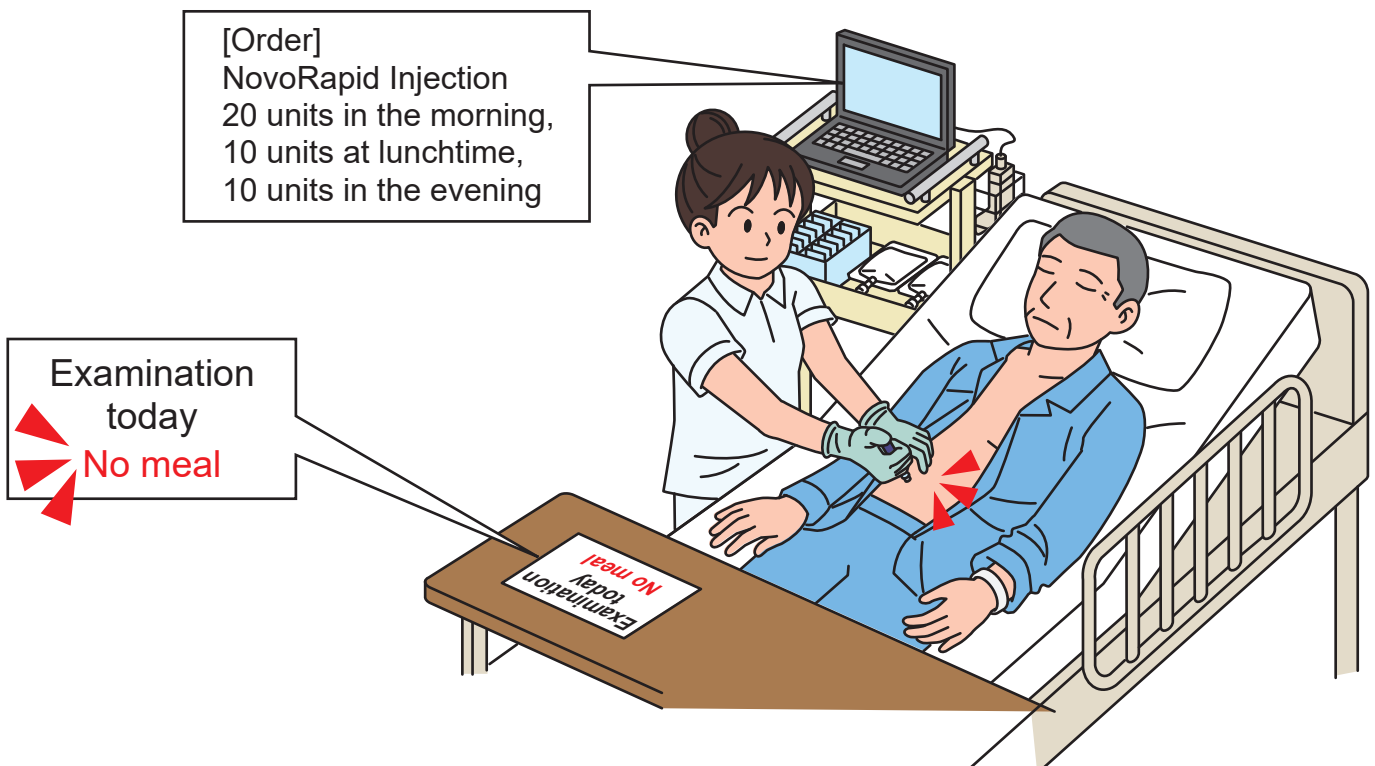
Cases have been reported in which a patient whose meals had been stopped suffered hypoglycemia because the same dose of insulin was administered as when the patient was able to eat.

Seven such cases were reported between January 1, 2016 and August 31, 2024. This information was compiled on the basis of the content featured in the Analysis Themes section of the 60th Quarterly Report.

Main Background Factors of Reported Events

Issue of order	-The physician ordered the patient's meals to be stopped, but did not issue an order for insulin administration to be stopped. *Multiple cases have been reported.
Acceptance of order	-The nurse saw the order to administer insulin on the order sheet, but did not see the instruction "Skip insulin when meals are stopped."

Image of case



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Case 1

At the order of the physician in the diabetes department, a patient admitted to the surgical department was receiving NovoRapid Injection, with 20 units being administered in the morning, 10 units at lunchtime, and 10 units in the evening. The physician in the surgical department ordered the patient's lunch to be stopped, as the patient was due to undergo a contrast CT examination in the afternoon, but did not issue an order for insulin administration to be stopped. The nurse administered the lunchtime dose of 10 units of NovoRapid Injection to the patient. When the patient subsequently developed a cold sweat and tremors, their blood glucose was measured and found to be 60 mg/dL.

Case 2

The physician had ordered the patient's meals to be stopped, starting from the morning of the day in question. The nurse measured the patient's blood glucose at lunchtime and, after seeing the order "Administer 9 units of Humalog Injection" on the order sheet, administered the Humalog Injection to the patient. When checking the order sheet once more while recording the dose, the nurse noticed the order "Skip insulin when meals are stopped." The nurse measured the patient's blood glucose and found that it was 55 mg/dL.

Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- Physicians will issue insulin orders that match the order for the patient's meals.
- When a patient's meals have been stopped, nurses will consider the possibility that the insulin order has been changed and will check the order.
- When a patient's meals have been stopped, medical staff will share information about insulin administration among themselves and will also explain it to the patient.

The measures above are examples. Please consider initiatives suitable for your own facility.

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See the Project website for details.

<https://www.med-safe.jp/>

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

