

Abstract

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The aims and objectives of the dissertation is to capture the historical development of the treatment of diabetes mellitus in the Czech countries from the earliest times to the present. Diabetes mellitus is a group of diseases whose common feature is hyperglycemia (high blood glucose). It is characterized by impaired secretion or insulin action, and is also associated with impaired metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and proteins. About 250 million people suffer from diabetes today and diabetes causes about 5 % of all deaths worldwide , so we can talk even about the global epidemic. In 2012, more than 841 thousand people suffered from diabetes in the Czech Republic, which is about 8% of the Czech population . This represents an increase of number of registered diabetics by about 16,000 people in comparison of the year 2011. Diabetes represents not only health , but also a significant economic burden .Historical data on the methods of treatment of diabetes in the Czech lands were mostly taken from the journal „Časopis lékařů českých“ (published since 1862) and „Praktický lékař“ (published since 1921). The first major work related to diabetes already appeared in 1825 and since 1862 is the treatment of this disease regularly commented on above mentioned journals. The most information appears after the discovery of insulin in 1921, there was a huge development of knowledge about diabetes. Then we can notice a great lapse of information during the war years , because the war medicine was focused on treatment of infectious diseases. In the postwar years , we can see only a slight increase of information , because the focus was still made for treatment of diseases associated with the war - tuberculosis , infectious diseases , venereal diseases. In the socialist era we can see some isolation of the Czechoslovak diabetology compared with the rest of the world and the doctors were also limited in using medicines . In spite of this fact diabetes care remained at a good level, there were a lot of consulting centers for diabetics and the doctors worked in a good cooperation with the general practitioners. There was targeted search programme for diabetics, too. At present, the treatment of diabetes is running according to modern global principles and achieving a good quality. The dissertation

presents an overall knowledge of the historical development of diabetes treatment in the Czech countries from the earliest times to the present, in the context of a changing world . The work deals with the treatment in different historical periods , the main turning point is the discovery of insulin. In general we can state clearly that we always have kept a high standard in diabetes care during the whole followed period until today.

Key words: diabetes - insulin