



Epidemiological evidence of a relationship between Type-1 diabetes mellitus and cancer: a review of the existing literature

Journal:	<i>International Journal of Cancer</i>
Manuscript ID:	Draft
Wiley - Manuscript type:	Mini Review
Date Submitted by the Author:	n/a
Complete List of Authors:	Gordon-Dseagu, Vanessa; UCL, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Mindell, Jennifer; UCL, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Shelton, Nicola; UCL, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health
Key Words:	Diabetes, Type-1, Cancer, Mortality, Incidence

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

1
2
3 **Epidemiological evidence of a relationship between Type-1 diabetes mellitus and cancer: a review**
4 **of the existing literature**
5
6

7 Vanessa LZ Gordon-Dseagu, MSc, Dr. Nicola Shelton, Dr. Jennifer S Mindell
8 UCL (University College London)
9 Department of Epidemiology and Public Health
10 1-19 Torrington Place
11 London
12 WC1E 6BT
13 Email: Vanessa.gordon-dseagu.09@ucl.ac.uk
14 Fax 020 7813 0242
15
16

17 Vanessa Gordon-Dseagu is funded by Diabetes UK (grant number- 08/0003752).
18
19

20 **Article category:** Mini-Review
21

22 **Novelty and impact of this paper**

23 Although there is an increasing amount of evidence relating to the relationship between type-2
24 diabetes and cancer, very little is known about the relationship between the latter and type-1
25 diabetes. This review is the first to gather together all the epidemiological evidence in this regard
26 and explore whether or not there is consistent evidence of an association between the two diseases.
27
28

29 **Word count:** 3,408
30

31 **Figure count:** 1 (included in separate document)
32

33 **Table count:** 1 (included in separate document and body of text)
34

35 **Reference count:** 47
36
37

38 **Key words** Type-1 diabetes mellitus, Cancer

39 **Abbreviations** T1DM, Type-1 Diabetes Mellitus, T2DM, Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus, IDDM, Insulin
40 Dependent Diabetes Mellitus, SMR, Standardized Mortality Ratio, SIR, Standardized Incidence Ratio,
41 RR, Relative Risk, HI Hazard Ratio, CI, Confidence Interval.
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Abstract

This review explores the epidemiological evidence relating to type-1 diabetes (T1DM) and cancer incidence and mortality. Mortality rates among those with T1DM are higher in every age group compared with the general population; the majority of this mortality is due to factors related to the consequences of diabetes, such as cardiovascular and renal diseases. For over 100 years, researchers have explored the relationships between diabetes and cancer and although there is now a large body of work on the subject, consensus has not been reached. Such research has tended to focus upon type-2 diabetes (T2DM), with the result that very little is known about T1DM and cancer. As incidence of T1DM increases, by around 3% annually among children, the need for further research into its impact upon cancer incidence and mortality increases. Within this review, findings varied by study method utilised, T1DM definition used, study region and outcome measure explored. None of the case-control studies found a statistically significant link between the two diseases, while both of the meta-analyses did. Cohort studies produced mixed results. There were also mixed findings among research that defined T1DM in the same way (for example defining individuals with the disease as those diagnosed with diabetes before 30 years of age). The review found a number of studies which explored cause-specific cancer mortality among those with diabetes; such studies also had mixed findings. This inconsistency within results suggests the need for further research in order to understand better the potential relationships between T1DM and cancer.

Introduction

Type-1 diabetes mellitus is a chronic condition which typically develops in childhood and is caused by the destruction of the β -cells within the pancreas, which leaves the body deficient in insulin.(1) Because of this, individuals with the disease require the use of exogenous insulin for survival. This form of the disease accounts for around 5-15% of all cases of diabetes mellitus, equating to around 290,000 individuals in the UK and over 33 million globally.(2,3) Research also indicates that, Europe-wide and internationally, incidence of the disease in children is increasing by around 3% annually. Although the cause of this is unclear, contributing factors appear to relate to the interplay between genes and the environment, and to better diagnosis and monitoring of the disease within countries that previously did not undertake such work.(4,5) Type-1 diabetes is associated with an increase in mortality at every age, with some estimates placing it at five to ten times higher among those with the disease.(6) The excess mortality found within this group is related primarily to metabolic complications of diabetes which result in increased rates of cardiovascular and renal disease.(7)

Investigations attempting to detail the link between diabetes mellitus, hyperglycaemia and cancer started in the late 1800s with the work of Freund(8) and Tuffier(9). Since then, a wealth of epidemiological research has been undertaken with resultant mixed findings. Even though a definitive answer has not been found, it does appear that diabetes influences the incidence of a number of cancers. Included in this group are cancers with a considerable increase in incidence (endometrium, pancreas, and liver), those with a moderate increase (breast and bladder), others for which the findings are inconclusive (kidney and non-Hodgkins lymphoma) and those with a lower incidence (prostate).(10) The majority of the research to date has focussed upon the link between type-2 diabetes and its impact upon cancer incidence, with some commentators questioning the validity of extrapolating such findings to type-1 diabetes.(11) Other studies have focussed upon diabetes in general and have not differentiated between type-1 and type-2 diabetes. Research has also begun to explore the effect that the use of different types of exogenous insulin, and other diabetic drugs, have upon the risk of developing cancer, again with mixed findings.(12–14) This review was undertaken to enable greater awareness of the potential relationship between type-1 diabetes and cancer. The review concludes with a number of suggestions for the development of future epidemiological research in this area.

Material and methods

Study identification

A literature search was undertaken within PubMed and Google Scholar to identify research with a focus on diabetes mellitus and its impact upon cancer incidence and mortality. Searches utilised the terms “diabetes”, “type 1 diabetes” “insulin treated diabetes mellitus” “IDDM”, “early onset diabetes”, “juvenile onset”, “young onset”, or “type-1 diabetes mellitus” “T1DM”, and “cancer”, “neoplasm”, “malignancy”, “incidence” or “mortality”. The references cited within each article were then reviewed in order to elicit further relevant articles.

Inclusion/exclusion of reports

The review includes only those reports that document research specifically focussed upon exploring the link between type-1 diabetes and cancer. A large number of reports detail evidence relating to the excess all-cause mortality experienced by those with type-1 diabetes and the references for

1
2
3 these reports were also reviewed. Studies were excluded in instances when they did not analyse the
4 two different types of diabetes separately, or when it was unclear which type of diabetes was under
5 analysis. The only instances where studies of this nature have been included in the review is when
6 the focus of the study was upon insulin use and the age group of the cohort was young enough to be
7 composed mainly of those with type 1 diabetes. If two studies utilised the same cohort, the earlier
8 study was excluded from the review. Studies were also excluded if they detailed the excess mortality
9 of a type-1 diabetic cohort but did not specifically analyse cancer incidence or mortality compared
10 with the general population, or other specified control group. Studies were excluded if they did not
11 give information about the precision of their measurement, such as 95% Confidence intervals (CI) or
12 p-values. Figure 1 details the literature selection.
13
14
15
16
17
18

19 **Figure 1: Selection of articles**

20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

42 **Results**

43
44 As can be seen from table 1, there were mixed findings, depending on the study method used.
45 Mixed results were found among cohort studies. None of the case-control studies found a
46 statistically significant link between the two diseases, while both of the meta-analyses (which
47 included both study designs) did. There were also mixed findings among research that defined type-
48 1 diabetes in the same way. For example, three studies used diagnosis before the age of 30 as being
49 indicative of the disease: two found no statistically significant relationship while one did. The rest of
50 this section explores the results of the research found within this review, based upon the method
51 used within the study.
52
53
54
55

56 **Cohort Studies**

57 A UK study found increased mortality among women with type-1 diabetes for ovarian cancer (SMR
58 2.90, 95% CI 1.45-5.19); the same was not found to be true for any other cancer site or all cancers
59 combined, the latter gave an SMR 0.90 (95% CI 0.75-1.08).(15) A key limitation of this study was that
60 a large proportion of their subjects (20,676 out of a total of 28,900) were under the age of 50 at
follow up. This is known to be a period when cancer incidence is lower than in later life; 63% of

1
2
3 cancers are diagnosed in those over the age of 65 and only 5.4% of cancer in men, and 8.9% of those
4 in women, occur under the age of 45.(16,17)
5
6

7 A Swedish study found a standardized mortality ratio (SMR) of 1.73 (95% CI 1.45-2.05) among its
8 type-1 diabetic cohort compared with the general population.(18) In support of this, a New Zealand
9 study found an SMR for cancer of 12.96 (95% CI 3.36-22.57) among those diagnosed with type-1
10 diabetes compared with the general population.(19) The CI is wide and this may be due to there
11 being only seven observed cases of cancer among those diagnosed with diabetes under the age of
12 30 (the measure used within the study as indicative of type-1 diabetes). The US Allegheny County
13 Type-1 Diabetes Registry cohort study investigated cause-specific mortality among its cohort of
14 those with type-1 diabetes (n=1,043). They found no statistically significant association between the
15 two diseases (SMR= 1.2, 95% CI 0.5-2.0) compared with the general population.(20) The lack of
16 statistical significance in this study is likely to be heavily influenced by the small number of cancer
17 deaths and the consequent effect on statistical power.
18
19
20
21
22

23 Only a few reports have focussed upon cause-specific mortality among those with type-1 diabetes;
24 among these a smaller number still investigated cancer mortality. The reason for this is likely to be
25 the excess of mortality among those with type-1 diabetes caused by complications of the disease
26 itself, such as renal disease and cardiovascular disease.(21) A UK study linked cause of death data to
27 a register of those with diabetes and found that those with type-1 diabetes only accounted for 18
28 (5%) of all deaths within the study; because of this they did not undertake separate analysis for
29 cause of death among those with this form of diabetes.(22) Other studies were characterised by
30 their inclusion of numbers of concurrent type-1 diabetes and cancer too small to elicit statistically
31 viable results.(23–26)
32
33
34

35 A Danish study found no overall increase in cancer cases among those with type 1 diabetes
36 compared with the general population.(27) More detailed analysis showed that, for site specific
37 cancers, only that of the pancreas had a statistically significant increase (RR=2.53, 95% CI = 1.17-
38 5.47). However, further analysis showed that, once cases were excluded where diabetes was an
39 early indication of the presence of cancer, the relationship was no longer statistically significant (RR=
40 1.69, p=0.29). In terms of age and gender, only men between the ages of 0-54 had an increased risk
41 of cancer (RR=2.04, 95% CI= 1.11-3.74); although this result may reflect the small numbers within
42 the studies other groups rather than the real effect type-1 diabetes has upon cancer incidence.
43
44
45
46

47 There were also only a small number of cohort studies which focus upon type-1 diabetes and cancer
48 incidence. A Swedish study found a 17% increase in cancer among those with type-1 diabetes
49 compared with the general population.(28) At the same time, if analysis excluded specific time
50 periods after diagnosis (based on either one or five years) no significant increase in standardized
51 incidence ratio (SIR) was found. Exclusion of the first year (SIR 1.07, 95% CI 0.94-1.22) was similar to
52 analysis for exclusion of first five years (SIR 1.09, 95% CI 0.96-1.25). This finding may support the
53 reverse causality hypothesis-that diabetes is the result of an undiagnosed cancer, rather than the
54 other way round or it could be the consequence of small numbers within the study. In terms of site-
55 specific cancers the study found increased SIRs for those of the stomach (3.36, 95% CI 1.44-6.66),
56 squamous cell carcinoma of the skin (4.96, 95% CI 2.83-8.07) and leukaemia (2.02 95% CI 1.15-3.29).
57 These SIRs were those which excluded the first five years of follow up after diagnosis of type-1
58 diabetes, with significance remaining stable across all the three follow-up intervals of all cases, one
59 year follow-up exclusion, and five years exclusion. Gender was a key factor in excess cancer
60

1
2
3 incidence. After exclusion of the first year following type-1 diabetes diagnosis, SIR only remained
4 increased among women. This statistical significance was also only for cancers of the skin (SIR 9.40,
5 95% CI 5.12-15.82) and leukaemia (2.55, 95% CI 1.26-4.57). The number of visits an individual made
6 to hospital was also found to be a risk factor for cancer, but the researchers were unsure whether
7 this was due to the increased chance of a cancer being diagnosed within more frequent visits to
8 hospital or because there was an association between type-1 diabetes and cancer.
9

10
11 A Danish cohort study found mixed results depending on cancer site.(29) Among those defined as
12 having type-1 diabetes (hospitalised for diabetes within the study period before the age of 50) the
13 SIR for all cancers was 1.1, 95% CI 1.0-1.2; only cancers of the mouth and pharynx (SIR 1.8, 95% CI
14 1.2-2.6) and liver (SIR 4.8, 95% CI 2.8-7.7) were increased among this group. For cancers of the
15 pancreas, lung and kidney non-statistically significant increases were found (SIR 1.4, 95% CI 0.7-2.3,
16 SIR 1.3, 1.0-1.6 and 1.6, 1.0-2.4 respectively). A third Swedish cohort study found an overall SIR for
17 cancer of 1.2 (95% CI 1.0-1.3) among those with type-1 diabetes compared with the general
18 population.(30) For site-specific cancers significant increases in SIR were found for those of the
19 stomach (2.3, 95% CI 1.1-4.1), cervix (1.6, CI 1.1-2.2), and endometrium (2.7, CI 1.4-4.7).
20
21
22
23
24

25 **Case-control studies**

26 A case-control study (7,713 cases, 38,518 controls) undertaken in the UK explored all-cause and
27 cause-specific mortality among those with type-1 diabetes compared with the general
28 population.(31) They found no difference in the hazard ratios for cancer mortality between the two
29 groups (HR=1.05, 95% CI 0.72-1.52). An Italian case-control study exploring the link between
30 endometrial cancer incidence and diabetes (type-1 diabetes and type-2 diabetes, assessed
31 separately) found no link between type-1 diabetes and the disease (OR=1.0, 95% CI 0.3-3.4) but only
32 four cases with type-1 diabetes were included in the study.(32) In support of this finding, a second
33 study which included 14,000 individuals aged 30-89 with diabetes, found no statistically significant
34 association (at the 5% level) between a range of site- specific cancers and the disease.(33)
35
36
37
38

39 **Meta-analyses and systematic reviews**

40 A meta-analysis of the link between diabetes and endometrial cancer found an association between
41 the two diseases (RR=3.15, 95% CI 1.07-9.29).(34) This was based on three studies, one of which was
42 a Swedish case-control study which had few women with type-1 diabetes (<10) and found a relative
43 risk (RR) of 13.3, with a wide CI of 3.1-56.4.(35) The other two studies are those of Swerdlow (UK) et
44 al and Zendejdel et al (Sweden), mentioned earlier in this review.(15,30)
45
46
47
48

49 A systematic review and meta-analysis focussed upon type-1 diabetes and the incidence of
50 pancreatic cancer.(36) Within the meta-analysis a relative risk of 2.00 (95% CI 1.37-3.01) was found
51 for pancreatic cancer among those with type-1 diabetes. The meta-analysis was based on 39
52 concurrent cases of the two diseases. The researchers themselves reported that the study was
53 limited by the small number of studies published in this area; there were an even smaller number
54 that were published with sufficient concurrent cases of type-1 diabetes and pancreatic cancer; Ekoe
55 et al found only one case while La Vecchia found three.(37,38) Only two studies had more than five
56 cases among those with type-1 diabetes; the first of these is the Wideroff study mentioned above
57 and the second found an increased relative risk of pancreatic cancer among those with type-1
58 diabetes (RR 2.23, 95% CI 1.08-4.58).(39) Three of the studies included in the analysis had no
59 concurrent cases of type-1 diabetes and pancreatic cancer.(33,40,41)
60

Table 1: Key findings of research exploring the relationship between type-1 diabetes and cancer

Study method	Country	Sample	Case definition (type-1 diabetes)	Outcome measure	Risk of cancer among T1DM participants (95% CI or p-value)	Risk of site-specific cancers (95% CI or p-value)
Cohort(27)	Denmark	1,499 insulin treated individuals	Insulin use	Incidence	Men RR=1.37 (1.03-1.83), Women RR=1.08 (0.77-1.51),	Pancreas RR=2.53 (1.17-5.47); RR=1.69 (p=0.29) once cases excluded where diabetes an indicator of cancer
Cohort(18)	Sweden	144,427 participants with diabetes	Hospitalisation for diabetes <age 40	Mortality	RR=1.73 (1.45-2.05)	N/A
Cohort(28)	Sweden	24,052 type-1 diabetic patients	Diagnosis <age 21	Incidence	RR=1.17 (1.04-1.33),	Stomach RR=3.36 (1.44-6.66), skin RR=4.96 (2.83-8.07), leukaemia RR=2.02 (1.15-3.29)
Cohort(19)	New Zealand	966 insulin treated participants including 427 with type-1 diabetes	Diagnosis <age 30	Mortality	SMR=12.96 (3.36-22.57)	N/A
Cohort(20)	USA	1,043 type-1 diabetic patients	Diagnosis <age 18	Mortality	SMR=1.2 (0.5-2.0)	N/A
Cohort(15)	UK	28,900 insulin treated diabetics including 23,834 with type-1 diabetes	Diagnosis <age 30	Mortality	SMR=0.90 (0.75-1.08),	Ovarian SMR=2.90, (1.45-5.19)
Cohort (29)	Denmark	109,581 individuals with diabetes	Hospitalised with diabetes < age 50	Incidence	SIR 1.1 (1.0-1.2)	Liver SIR= 4.8 (2.8-7.7), mouth and pharynx SIR=1.8 (1.2-2.6)
Cohort(30)	Sweden	29,187 diabetes patients	Hospitalisation for diabetes <age 30	Incidence	SIR=1.2 (1.0-1.3)	N/A
Case-control(31)	UK	7,713 cases of type-1 diabetes and 38,518 controls	Those currently on insulin and aged <35 at treatment or <35 years at diagnosis of diabetes	Mortality	HR=1.05 (0.72-1.52)	N/A
Case-control(32)	Italy	752 diabetic women with endometrial cancer and 2,606 admitted to the same hospitals	Diagnosis <age 40	Incidence	OR=1.0 (0.3-3.4)	N/A
Case-control(33)	USA	14,000 participants with diabetes aged 30-89	Diagnosed with diabetes < age 29	Incidence	Not statistically significant (at the p<0.05 level)	N/A
Meta-analysis(34)		1 case-control and 2 cohort studies (15,30,35)		Incidence	N/A	Endometrial RR=3.15 (1.07-9.92)
Meta-analysis(36)		3 cohort and 6 case-control studies		Incidence	N/A	Pancreatic RR=2.00 (1.37-3.01)

Discussion

This review of the epidemiological literature, relating to type-1 diabetes and cancer incidence and mortality, illustrates that there is still much we need to clarify about the relationship between the two diseases. The findings of the cohort studies were heterogeneous, for example the New Zealand study found an increased SMR of 12.96 (95% CI 3.36-22.57) while a UK study did not find an increase in cancer mortality among those with type-1 diabetes (SMR 0.09, 95% CI 0.75-1.08).^(19,31) Neither of the case-control studies found an association between type-1 diabetes and cancer but the meta-analyses did for both pancreatic and endometrial cancer (RR 2.0, CI 1.37-3.01 and RR 3.15, CI 1.07-9.92 respectively).^(34,36) When studies were grouped into those that focussed upon either cancer mortality or incidence there was still no uniformity within the results.

Although a small number of reports have been specifically focussed upon the two diseases, many of these used different criteria to identify type-1 diabetes (related to age at first diagnosis or age at first hospitalisation for diabetes). The inclusion criteria for a case of type-1 diabetes within different studies ranged from disease diagnosis from ages <18 to those <40 years old. This makes comparison across studies difficult, although the use of similar criteria did not generate homogeneity within results. It is likely that the younger classification of type-1 diabetes is more likely to capture a cohort which most closely matches the true type-1 diabetic population. One study found that using diagnosis before the age of 21 years as the cut-off criterion was specific enough to create a cohort which contained only 2% with type-2 diabetes.⁽²⁸⁾ Future research should carefully consider the specificity of the criteria they use in this regard.

At the same time, studies which include younger cohorts are likely to contain fewer cases of cancer within a given follow-up period, thus reducing their statistical power considerably. One of the key issues with undertaking population based studies of the links between type-1 diabetes and cancer is that the former is relatively rare and, depending on the site of the cancer, the latter may also be relatively infrequent. The result has been that, when population-based studies have focussed specifically on cancer incidence and/or mortality, as well as differentiating between type-1 and type-2 diabetes, they produced small numbers of incident cancers among participants with type-1 diabetes.⁽⁴²⁻⁴⁴⁾ Research could be improved through the use of larger cohorts and/or longer follow-up periods in order to generate enough concurrent cases of type-1 diabetes and cancer.

The study from Denmark, which found an increase in risk of cancer among men aged 0-54 years, is of particular interest.⁽²⁷⁾ This age group was most likely to represent those with type-1 diabetes in the study period (1970-1980s), and may represent the true rate of cancer among those with the disease. Although this study found no increase in cancer risk among women, further exploration is needed to clarify this result. The use of an exclusion period within some of the studies is also interesting to note in relation to the issue of reverse causality. Future research could explore the usefulness of this method in terms of exploring the causal pathway between diabetes and cancer (or whether or not it is vice-versa).

The heterogeneity of findings supports the need for further investigation. The paucity of research in this area further illustrates the need for the development of research focused upon the two diseases. Studies undertaken in the future could utilise large-scale datasets with sufficient numbers of cases with type-1 diabetes and controls, for example primary care records used for research such as the GPRD (General Practice Research Database) or THIN (The Health Improvement Network) in the UK. Such research would

1
2
3 enable a clearer understanding of a number of key epidemiological areas with respect to the relationship
4 between type-1 diabetes and cancer. Future research could be undertaken to better understand the
5 relationship between type-1 diabetes and:
6

- 7
- 8 • overall cancer risk,
- 9
- 10 • risk of site-specific cancers,
- 11
- 12 • cancer mortality,
- 13
- 14 • mortality after treatment for cancer, and
- 15
- 16
- 17 • the impact that the use of exogenous insulin, and other diabetic medications, have upon cancer
18 incidence.
19

20
21 If an association is found between the two diseases, then further research may be required which
22 explores, in greater detail than previous studies, the differences in type-1 diabetes and cancer relating to
23 gender, race and other demographic and socioeconomic factors; as well as the potential regional
24 variations in diagnosis and treatment of both conditions. Although individuals with type-1 diabetes all
25 require exogenous insulin for survival there may be differences in cancer risk dependent upon the type
26 of insulin administered. At the same time, there is some evidence that individuals with diabetes who
27 then go on to develop cancer are diagnosed at a later stage of the disease and may receive differing
28 treatment regimens compared with those without diabetes.(45,46) The way that cancer is treated also
29 differs by region and country, which will further impact upon cancer survival. All of these issues require
30 further exploration. Research has begun to explore the biological basis for the increased all-cause and
31 cause-specific mortality found among those with type-1 diabetes; key findings suggest that circulating
32 adiponectin, the sharing of aetiological causes, complications caused by type-1 diabetes, and raised BMI
33 may each contribute to increased mortality among those with type-1 diabetes compared with the
34 general population.(10,47) Further research should also be undertaken which enables a better
35 understanding of the biological causes of this differing mortality and enables interventions to be
36 developed which address it.
37
38
39
40
41

42 **Conclusion**

43
44
45 Type-1 diabetes is a chronic condition relating to poor glycaemic control which appears to be increasing
46 in incidence. Given the large number of individuals with the disease globally, even small increases in the
47 relative risk of cancer incidence and/or mortality among this group will increase the total burden of
48 cancer considerably. Those with the disease have increased mortality at every age following diagnosis,
49 mainly due to complications of the disease itself and cardiovascular and renal disease. An understanding
50 of the potential association between type-1 diabetes and cancer will become increasingly important as
51 improvements are made in the control and prevention of cardiovascular disease, enabling those with
52 diabetes to live longer lives (which in turn increases the risk of developing cancer). Better understanding
53 of the relationship between the two diseases also enables the development of interventions to reduce
54 potential excess mortality.
55
56
57
58

59
60 Current epidemiological research investigating the link between type-1 diabetes and cancer has resulted
in mixed findings, which varied by the research methods used. Case-control studies have consistently not

1
2
3 found a statistically significant link between the two diseases, while meta-analyses have. Cohort studies
4 have resulted in mixed findings and there appears to be heterogeneous results within studies that utilise
5 the same criteria for a diagnosis of type-1 diabetes (such as being diagnosed with diabetes before the
6 age of 30). Although there is heterogeneity within the results, it does appear that those with type-1
7 diabetes either have the same or an increased risk of cancer incidence and/or mortality from the
8 disease. The inconsistency within study findings strongly suggests the need for further detailed research
9 to be undertaken which explores the nature of the relationship between type-1 diabetes and cancer.
10
11
12

13 **Acknowledgments**

14
15
16 Vanessa Gordon-Dseagu is funded by Diabetes UK (grant number- 08/0003752) and wishes to thank
17 them for their ongoing support. We thank Professor Sir Michael Marmot and Professor Daniel
18 Hochhauser for their helpful comments on this literature review.
19

20
21 None of the authors declared any conflicts of interests in relation to this work.
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

References

1. Standards of medical care in diabetes--2009. *Diabetes Care*. 2009 Jan;32 Suppl 1:S13–61.
2. Diabetes UK. *Diabetes in the UK 2011-2012*. London: Diabetes UK; 2011.
3. NHS The Information Centre. *Disease Prevalence: Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for April 2010-March 2011*. London: The Information Centre; 2011.
4. The DIAMOND Project Group. Incidence and trends of childhood Type 1 diabetes worldwide 1990–1999. *Diabetic Med*. 2006 Aug;23(8):857–66.
5. Variation and trends in incidence of childhood diabetes in Europe. EURODIAB ACE Study Group. *Lancet*. 2000 Mar 11;355(9207):873–6.
6. Panzram G. Epidemiologic data on excess mortality and life expectancy in insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus--critical review. *Exp. Clin. Endocrinol*. 1984 Mar;83(1):93–100.
7. Laing SP, Swerdlow AJ, Slater SD, Botha JL, Burden AC, Waugh NR, et al. The British Diabetic Association Cohort Study, II: cause-specific mortality in patients with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus. *Diabet. Med*. 1999 Jun;16(6):466–71.
8. Freund E. Zur Diagnose des Carcinoms Vorlaufige Mitteilung (Cited in Marks, P.A. and Bishop, J.S. (1956) *The Glucose Metabolism of Patients with Malignant Disease and of Normal Subjects as Studied by Means of an Intravenous Glucose Tolerance Test* New York: Columbia University College of Physicians. 1885;
9. Tuffier. Diabete et neoplasms (Cited in Kessler, I. (1971) *Cancer and Diabetes Mellitus: A review of the literature* *Journal of Chronic Diseases* Vol. 23, Issue 8, p.579-600; 1971). 1888;
10. Giovannucci E, Harlan DM, Archer MC, Bergenstal RM, Gapstur SM, Habel LA, et al. Diabetes and Cancer: A Consensus Report. *CA Cancer J Clin*. 2010 Jul 1;60(4):207–21.
11. Schiel R, Beltschikow W, Steiner T, Stein G. Diabetes, insulin, and risk of cancer. *Methods Find Exp Clin Pharmacol*. 2006 Apr;28(3):169–75.
12. Dejgaard A, Lynggaard H, Råstam J, Krosgaard Thomsen M. No evidence of increased risk of malignancies in patients with diabetes treated with insulin detemir: a meta-analysis. *Diabetologia*. 2009 Dec;52(12):2507–12.
13. Grouven U, Hemkens LG, Bender R, Sawicki PT. Risk of malignancies in patients with diabetes treated with human insulin or insulin analogues. Reply to Nagel JM, Mansmann U, Wegscheider K et al. [letter] and Simon D [letter]. *Diabetologia*. 2010 Jan;53(1):209–11.
14. González-Pérez A, García Rodríguez LA. Prostate Cancer Risk Among Men with Diabetes Mellitus (Spain). *Cancer Causes Control*. 2005 Nov;16(9):1055–8.
15. Swerdlow AJ, Laing SP, Qiao Z, Slater SD, Burden AC, Botha JL, et al. Cancer incidence and mortality in patients with insulin-treated diabetes: a UK cohort study. *Br J Cancer*. 2005 May;92(11):2070–5.
16. Cancer Research UK. *Cancer incidence by age - UK statistics* [Internet]. [cited 2010 Sep 27]. Available from: <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/incidence/age/>

17. Office for National Statistics. Cancer Statistics Registrations: Registrations of cancer diagnosed in 2008, England (MB1 39). London: Office for National Statistics. 2010.
18. Weiderpass E, Gridley G, Nyrén O, Pennello G, Landström AS, Ekblom A. Cause-specific mortality in a cohort of patients with diabetes mellitus: a population-based study in Sweden. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2001 Aug;54(8):802–9.
19. Dawson SI, Willis J, Florkowski CM, Scott RS. Cause-specific mortality in insulin-treated diabetic patients: a 20-year follow-up. *Diabetes Res. Clin. Pract.* 2008 Apr;80(1):16–23.
20. Secrest AM, Becker DJ, Kelsey SF, Laporte RE, Orchard TJ. Cause-specific mortality trends in a large population-based cohort with long-standing childhood-onset type 1 diabetes The Allegheny County Type 1 Diabetes Registry. *Diabetes* [Internet]. 2010 Aug 25; Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20739685>
21. Skriverhaug T, Bangstad H-J, Stene LC, Sandvik L, Hanssen KF, Joner G. Long-term mortality in a nationwide cohort of childhood-onset type 1 diabetic patients in Norway. *Diabetologia*. 2006 Feb;49(2):298–305.
22. Raymond NT, Langley JD, Goyder E, Botha JL, Burden AC, Hearnshaw JR. Insulin treated diabetes mellitus: causes of death determined from record linkage of population based registers in Leicestershire, UK. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 1995 Dec;49(6):570–4.
23. Moss SE, Klein R, Klein BE. Cause-specific mortality in a population-based study of diabetes. *Am J Public Health*. 1991 Sep;81(9):1158–62.
24. Kostraba JN, Dorman JS, LaPorte RE, Kuller LH, Orchard TJ, Becker DJ, et al. The Investigation of Age at Onset as a Risk Factor for Mortality in Persons with Insulin-dependent Diabetes Mellitus Using Cox Proportional Hazards Models. *American Journal of Epidemiology*. 1991 Jan 1;133(1):67–72.
25. Janeczko D, Kopczyński J, Czyżyk A, Janeczko-Sosnowska E, Tuszyńska A, Lewandowski Z. [Mortality of diabetic patients in Warsaw--22 year prospective observation (1973/74-1995). II. Mortality of patients with type I diabetes (insulin-dependent-diabetes)]. *Pol. Arch. Med. Wewn.* 1998 Aug;100(2):165–71.
26. Florkowski CM, Scott RS, Graham PJ, Han DY, Moir CL. Cause-specific and total mortality in the Canterbury (New Zealand) insulin-treated Diabetic Registry population: a 15-year follow-up study. *Diabet. Med.* 2003 Mar;20(3):191–7.
27. Green A, Jensen OM. Frequency of cancer among insulin-treated diabetic patients in Denmark. *Diabetologia*. 1985 Mar;28(3):128–30.
28. Shu X, Ji J, Li X, Sundquist J, Sundquist K, Hemminki K. Cancer risk among patients hospitalized for Type 1 diabetes mellitus: a population-based cohort study in Sweden. *Diabet. Med.* 2010 Jul;27(7):791–7.
29. Wideroff L, Gridley G, Mellekjær L, Chow W, Linet M, Keehn S, et al. Cancer incidence in a population-based cohort of patients hospitalized with diabetes mellitus in Denmark. *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 1997 Sep 17;89(18):1360–5.
30. Zendejdel K, Nyren O, Ostenson C-G, Adami H-O, Ekblom A, Ye W. Cancer Incidence in Patients With Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: A Population-Based Cohort Study in Sweden. *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 2003 Dec 3;95(23):1797–800.

- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - 10
 - 11
 - 12
 - 13
 - 14
 - 15
 - 16
 - 17
 - 18
 - 19
 - 20
 - 21
 - 22
 - 23
 - 24
 - 25
 - 26
 - 27
 - 28
 - 29
 - 30
 - 31
 - 32
 - 33
 - 34
 - 35
 - 36
 - 37
 - 38
 - 39
 - 40
 - 41
 - 42
 - 43
 - 44
 - 45
 - 46
 - 47
 - 48
 - 49
 - 50
 - 51
 - 52
 - 53
 - 54
 - 55
 - 56
 - 57
 - 58
 - 59
 - 60
31. Soedamah-Muthu SS, Fuller JH, Mulnier HE, Raleigh VS, Lawrenson RA, Colhoun HM. All-cause mortality rates in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus compared with a non-diabetic population from the UK general practice research database, 1992–1999. *Diabetologia*. 2006 Jan;49(4):660–6.
32. Parazzini F, La Vecchia C, Negri E, Riboldi GL, Surace M, Benzi G, et al. Diabetes and endometrial cancer: an Italian case-control study. *Int. J. Cancer*. 1999 May 17;81(4):539–42.
33. O’Mara BA, Byers T, Schoenfeld E. Diabetes mellitus and cancer risk: A multisite case-control study. *Journal of Chronic Diseases*. 1985;38(5):435–41.
34. Friberg E, Orsini N, Mantzoros CS, Wolk A. Diabetes mellitus and risk of endometrial cancer: a meta-analysis. *Diabetologia*. 2007 Jul;50(7):1365–74.
35. Weiderpass E, Persson I, Adami HO, Magnusson C, Lindgren A, Baron JA. Body size in different periods of life, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and risk of postmenopausal endometrial cancer (Sweden). *Cancer Causes Control*. 2000 Feb;11(2):185–92.
36. Stevens RJ, Roddam AW, Beral V. Pancreatic cancer in type 1 and young-onset diabetes: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Br. J. Cancer*. 2007 Feb 12;96(3):507–9.
37. Ekoé JM, Ghadirian P, Simard A, Baillargeon J, Perret C. [Diabetes mellitus and pancreatic cancer: a case-control study in greater Montreal, Quebec, Canada]. *Rev Epidemiol Sante Publique*. 1992;40(6):447–53.
38. La Vecchia C, Negri E, Franceschi S, D’Avanzo B, Boyle P. A case-control study of diabetes mellitus and cancer risk. *Br. J. Cancer*. 1994 Nov;70(5):950–3.
39. Bueno de Mesquita HB, Maisonneuve P, Moerman CJ, Walker AM. Aspects of medical history and exocrine carcinoma of the pancreas: a population-based case-control study in The Netherlands. *Int. J. Cancer*. 1992 Aug 19;52(1):17–23.
40. Gullo L, Pezzilli R, Morselli-Labate AM, Italian Pancreatic Cancer Study Group. Diabetes and the Risk of Pancreatic Cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 1994 Jul 14;331(2):81–4.
41. Silverman DT, Schiffman M, Everhart J, Goldstein A, Lillemoe KD, Swanson GM, et al. Diabetes mellitus, other medical conditions and familial history of cancer as risk factors for pancreatic cancer. *Br J Cancer*. 1999 Jun;80(11):1830–7.
42. Schiel R, Müller UA, Braun A, Stein G, Kath R. Risk of malignancies in patients with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus: results of a population-based trial with 10-year follow-up (JEVIN). *Eur. J. Med. Res*. 2005 Aug 17;10(8):339–44.
43. Kath R, Schiel R, Müller UA, Höffken K. Malignancies in patients with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus. *J. Cancer Res. Clin. Oncol*. 2000 Jul;126(7):412–7.
44. O’Connor TM, Cronin CC, Loane JF, O’Meara NM, Firth RG, Shanahan F, et al. Type 1 diabetes mellitus, coeliac disease, and lymphoma: a report of four cases. *Diabet. Med*. 1999 Jul;16(7):614–7.
45. Fleming ST, Pursley HG, Newman B, Pavlov D, Chen K. Comorbidity as a predictor of stage of illness for patients with breast cancer. *Med Care*. 2005 Feb;43(2):132–40.

- 1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
46. van de Poll-Franse LV, Houterman S, Janssen-Heijnen MLG, Dercksen MW, Coebergh JWW, Haak HR. Less aggressive treatment and worse overall survival in cancer patients with diabetes: a large population based analysis. *Int. J. Cancer*. 2007 May 1;120(9):1986–92.
47. Schmiedel S, Jacquez GM, Blettner M, Schüz J. Spatial clustering of leukemia and type 1 diabetes in children in Denmark. *Cancer Causes Control*. 2011 Jun;22(6):849–57.

For Peer Review

Figure 1: Selection of articles

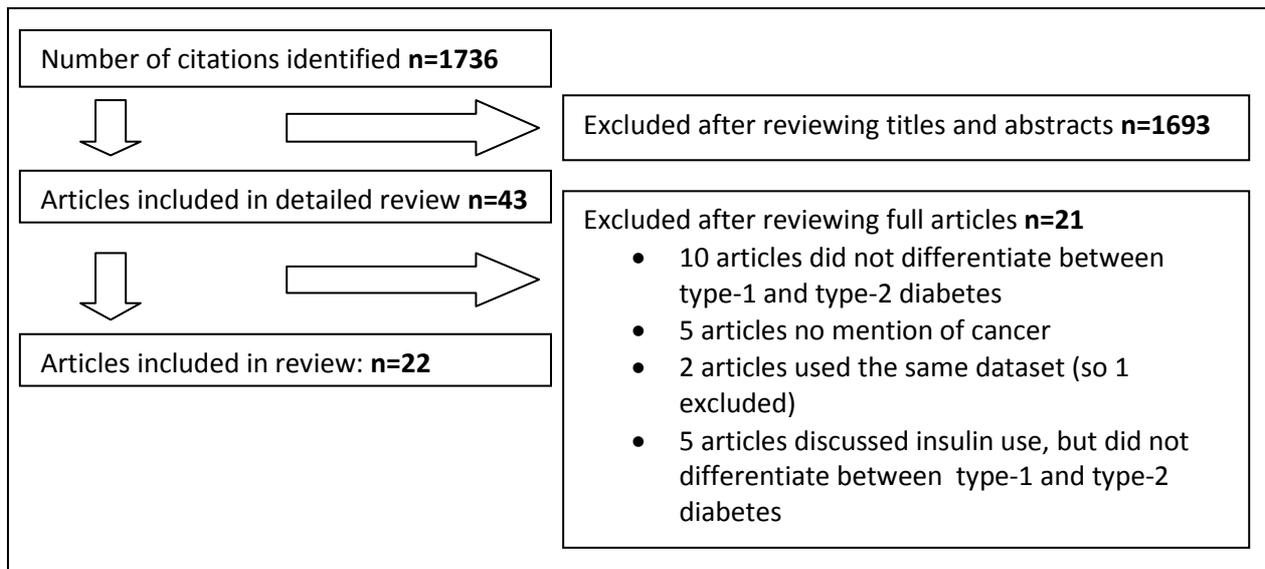


Table 1: Key findings of research exploring the relationship between type-1 diabetes and cancer

Study method	Country	Sample	Case definition (type-1 diabetes)	Outcome measure	Risk of cancer among T1DM participants (95% CI or p-value)	Risk of site-specific cancers (95% CI or p-value)
Cohort(27)	Denmark	1,499 insulin treated individuals	Insulin use	Incidence	Men RR=1.37 (1.03-1.83), Women RR=1.08 (0.77-1.51),	Pancreas RR=2.53 (1.17-5.47); RR=1.69 (p=0.29) once cases excluded where diabetes an indicator of cancer
Cohort(18)	Sweden	144,427 participants with diabetes	Hospitalisation for diabetes <age 40	Mortality	RR=1.73 (1.45-2.05)	N/A
Cohort(28)	Sweden	24,052 type-1 diabetic patients	Diagnosis <age 21	Incidence	RR=1.17 (1.04-1.33),	Stomach RR=3.36 (1.44-6.66), skin RR=4.96 (2.83-8.07), leukaemia RR=2.02 (1.15-3.29)
Cohort(19)	New Zealand	966 insulin treated participants including 427 with type-1 diabetes	Diagnosis <age 30	Mortality	SMR=12.96 (3.36-22.57)	N/A
Cohort(20)	USA	1,043 type-1 diabetic patients	Diagnosis <age 18	Mortality	SMR=1.2 (0.5-2.0)	N/A
Cohort(15)	UK	28,900 insulin treated diabetics including 23,834 with type-1 diabetes	Diagnosis <age 30	Mortality	SMR=0.90 (0.75-1.08),	Ovarian SMR=2.90, (1.45-5.19)
Cohort (29)	Denmark	109,581 individuals with diabetes	Hospitalised with diabetes < age 50	Incidence	SIR 1.1 (1.0-1.2)	Liver SIR= 4.8 (2.8-7.7), mouth and pharynx SIR=1.8 (1.2-2.6)
Cohort(30)	Sweden	29,187 diabetes patients	Hospitalisation for diabetes <age 30	Incidence	SIR=1.2 (1.0-1.3)	N/A
Case-control(31)	UK	7,713 cases of type-1 diabetes and 38,518 controls	Those currently on insulin and aged <35 at treatment or <35 years at diagnosis of diabetes	Mortality	HR=1.05 (0.72-1.52)	N/A
Case-control(32)	Italy	752 diabetic women with endometrial cancer and 2,606 admitted to the same hospitals	Diagnosis <age 40	Incidence	OR=1.0 (0.3-3.4)	N/A
Case-control(33)	USA	14,000 participants with diabetes aged 30-89	Diagnosed with diabetes < age 29	Incidence	Not statistically significant (at the p<0.05 level)	N/A
Meta-analysis(34)		1 case-control and 2 cohort studies (15,30,35)		Incidence	N/A	Endometrial RR=3.15 (1.07-9.92)
Meta-analysis(36)		3 cohort and 6 case-control studies		Incidence	N/A	Pancreatic RR=2.00 (1.37-3.01)