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| **Name:** |
| Jessica Short |
| **Group:** |
| 6A-2 |
| **Basic Science Question:** |
| What is (diabetic) ketoacidosis? |
| **Report:** |
| Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a serious complication that occurs when cells in the body are unable to obtain the sugar (glucose) they need for energy because there isn’t enough insulin in the body.  Typically, insulin is a hormone released by the pancreas in response to increased blood glucose levels after eating a meal. Insulin functions to allow glucose to enter the body’s cells to provide energy. When glucose cannot enter cells, it stays in the blood.  The kidneys are responsible for filtering some of the glucose from the blood and removing it from the body through urine.  Due to low glucose levels within cells, the body begins to breakdown other molecules like fat and muscle. When this happens, ketones or fatty acids are produced and enter the blood stream leading to the chemical imbalance.  Causes include illness, not eating enough food, low blood glucose, or not enough insulin.  Symptoms include thirst, frequent urination, nausea, abdominal pain, weakness, confusion, and fruity-scented breath.  Treatment involves replacing fluids and electrolytes and providing insulin therapy. |
| **References:** |
| “DKA (Ketoacidosis) & Ketones.” *DKA (Ketoacidosis) & Ketones | ADA*, American Diabetes Association, www.diabetes.org/diabetes/complications/dka-ketoacidosis-ketones. |