Got Sugar?
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Background: Diabetic surgical patients were treated with regular insulin the day of surgery with an anesthesiologist pre-op order for glucose > 200. Optimization was a patient safety concern to staff. Sampling of 106 diabetic patients was done. A tool was developed to gather data that compared the Day of Surgery (DOS) fasting blood sugar to the pre-surgery (PS) serum glucose, and treatment, if applicable. Data revealed blood sugar of >200 were found on twelve PS patients and decreased to 6 patients on DOS. Five were given regular insulin, one case cancelled and referred to PCP, and one received no treatment.

Objective: To evaluate the current process of pre-op treatment of diabetics for elective surgery.

Implementation: Data results prove the current process of evaluation and treatment is sufficient.

Successful Practice: A new process/policy to promote further optimization was implemented which increased lead time between posted surgery date and PS visit, algorhythm initiated for PS treatment of diabetic patients, and standard Peri-operative subcutaneous insulin orders for DOS.


Implications: Patient safety and positive patient outcomes result from new process.

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