

ABSTRACT

A striking feature of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the gradual transition from a condition perceived as being of greatest risk to people with underlying pulmonary disease to one where the threat is seen to predominate in those with diabetes and metabolic dysfunction.

This reflects a complex interplay between COVID-19 and diabetes. Understanding how diabetes can lead to severe COVID-19 and conversely, how COVID-19 can complicate diabetes pathophysiology or its outcomes, is an important priority for clinical practice and public health.

In this presentation we will review the epidemiological evidence for links between COVID-19 and diabetes, the underlying physiological mechanisms that may place people with diabetes at increased risk and the evidence for a novel presentation of diabetes in COVID-19. We will also consider the lessons learnt so far on the clinical challenges and optimal treatment strategies for managing people with diabetes and acute COVID-19 infection.

David Hopkins - biography

David Hopkins is a consultant physician and diabetologist based in London. He is Director of the Institute of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Obesity at King's Health Partners, an academic health science centre comprising King's College London, King's College Hospital, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals and South London & Maudsley NHS trust. He is Co-Chair of the Council of Healthcare Professionals at Diabetes UK and is a former member of the UK DAFNE collaborative executive.

David has broad clinical and academic interests across the whole spectrum of diabetes and runs specialist clinics for advanced type 1 diabetes management islet and pancreas transplantation and diabetes complication management. Current research work ranges from studies on novel endoscopic based treatments for type 2 diabetes to the use of large datasets to understand the clinical course of diabetes and improving the understanding of the experience living with diabetes.

David has been actively engaged in multidisciplinary health professional education throughout his career and is leading on a new King's College London online Masters level programme which will launch in 2021.