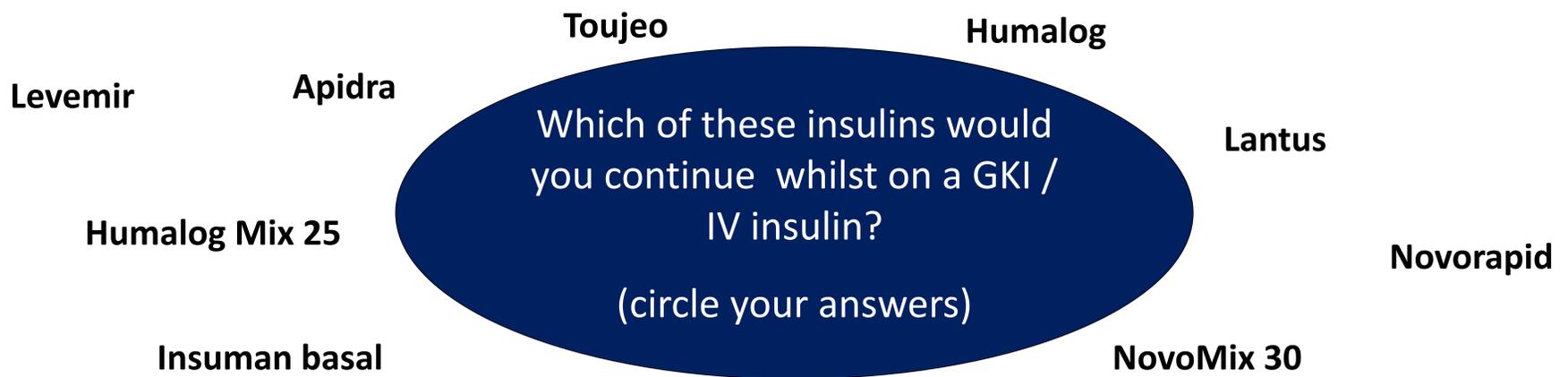


Safe insulin prescribing tip 9

“What regular insulins can be continued alongside a GKI or IV insulin infusions?”



Background

Some insulins should be continued whilst on a GKI or insulin infusion (see table 1).

Long or intermediate acting insulins are used to mimic the steady background release of insulin and should be continued even when the patient isn't eating. All other insulins should be held.

Table 1: Which insulins can continue with a GKI or IV insulin?

Insulin type	Example insulins	Continue with GKI or IV insulin infusion?
Rapid acting analogues	NovoRapid	No
	Humalog	
	Apidra	
Short acting	Actrapid	No
	Humulin S	
Intermediate acting	Humulin I	Yes
	Insulatard	
	Insuman Basal	
Long acting	Lantus	Yes
	Toujeo	
	Levemir	
	Tresiba	
Biphasic insulin	NovoMIX 30	No
	Humalog Mix 25 or 50	
	Humulin M3	

How did you do?

Check your answers in table 1.



How should the prescription look?

Rapid acting insulin held whilst on GKI

Short acting insulin is prescribed and communication is clear to hold whilst on a GKI. The administration boxes are also crossed out for the short acting insulin.

Long acting insulin continued

Prescribing tips

When prescribing a GKI always check the other insulin prescriptions. As per table 1:

- Continue long and intermediate acting insulins
- Hold short, rapid or mixed (biphasic) insulins on the medication chart

Ensure you communicate these instructions with the patient and the nursing staff.

Further info

The adult inpatient diabetes guidelines can be accessed [here](#). Section 19 covers GKIs and IV insulin infusions.