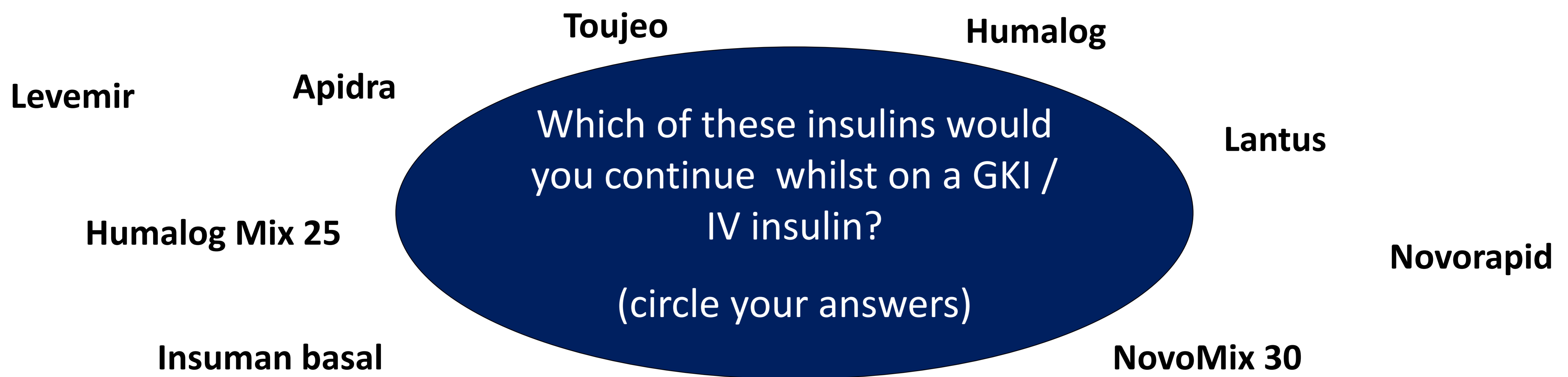


Safe insulin prescribing tip 9

“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.

How did you do?

Check your answers in table 1.



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	No
	Apidra	No
Short acting	Actrapid	No
	Humulin S	No
Intermediate acting	Humulin I	Yes
	Insulatard	Yes
	Insuman Basal	Yes
Long acting	Lantus	Yes
	Toujeo	Yes
	Levemir	Yes
	Tresiba	Yes
Biphasic insulin	NovoMIX 30	No
	Humalog Mix 25 or 50	No
	Humulin M3	No

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.