

Insulins Oral Medication

Adapted from How Sweet It Is! Management of Diabetes: Oral Medications

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Characteristic		
Class	Insulins	
Compound(s)	Rapid acting, intermediate acting, long acting	
Cellular mechanism(s)	Activates insulin receptors	
Primary physiological action(s)	Increased glucose disposal, reduced hepatic glucose production, suppresses ketogenesis	
Advantages	Nearly universal response Theoretically unlimited utility	Reduced microvascular risk (UKPDS)
Disadvantages	Hypoglycemia Weight gain Training requirements	Patient and provider reluctance Injectable (except for inhaled) Pulmonary toxicity (inhaled)
Cost	High	

Resources:

- Diabetes Care 2017;40(Supp 1):S64-S74