Physiology of insulin secretion: problems of quantity and timing

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Summary: If normal physiology could be restored to diabetic subjects, their susceptibility to complications should decline. There are considerable problems in trying to achieve this, for each individual needs the correct quantity of insulin, and the time patterns of normal insulin secretion are complex and difficult to mimic. The pancreas secretes insulin in response to both metabolic and neural cues, and a study of normal physiology is helpful in outlining the principles of insulin therapy.