



Contents available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Diabetes Research  
and Clinical Practice

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/diabres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/diabres)



International  
Diabetes  
Federation



## Review

# Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion versus multiple daily insulin injections in patients with Type 1 diabetes mellitus who fast during Ramadan: A systematic review and meta-analysis



Hoda Gad<sup>a</sup>, Hamad Al-Muhannadi<sup>a</sup>, Paul Mussleman<sup>b</sup>, Rayaz A. Malik<sup>a,c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Doha, Qatar

<sup>b</sup>Library Services, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Doha, Qatar

<sup>c</sup>University of Manchester, Institute of Cardiovascular Medicine, Manchester, United Kingdom

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 8 January 2019

Received in revised form

13 February 2019

Accepted 20 February 2019

Available online 27 February 2019

### Keywords:

CSII

MDI

T1DM

Metabolic control

Ramadan fasting

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The benefits and risks of continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII) or multiple daily injections (MDI) in patients with Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) who fast during Ramadan are not known.

**Methods:** Systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies conducted in PubMed, Embase (Ovid), and the Cochrane Library. Quality of included studies was assessed using the ROBINS-I tool for risk of bias assessment and analyses were performed using Rev-Man version 5.1.

**Results:** From 709 records, 306 full text studies were assessed. After exclusions, the final analysis included a total of 9 studies. Heterogeneity for outcomes was  $I^2 = 0\%$ . There was no significant difference for the change in glycemic control ( $HbA_{1c}$ ) between CSII and MDI ( $P > 0.05$ ). There was no change in weight or the lipid profile in patients with T1DM on MDI during Ramadan. There were insufficient data to assess the impact on glucose profiles and the incidence of hypoglycemia or diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) in patients on CSII or MDI during Ramadan.

**Conclusions:** Studies assessing the effect of CSII or MDI in patients with T1DM who fast during Ramadan are limited to observational studies and show no difference in the change in  $HbA_{1c}$ , weight or lipids during Ramadan.

Crown Copyright © 2019 Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

## Contents

1. Introduction . . . . .	266
2. Methods . . . . .	266

\* Corresponding author at: Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Doha, Qatar.

E-mail address: [ram2045@qatar-med.cornell.edu](mailto:ram2045@qatar-med.cornell.edu) (R.A. Malik).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2019.02.019>

0168-8227/Crown Copyright © 2019 Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

2.1. Data sources and extraction . . . . .	266
2.2. Data extraction . . . . .	267
2.3. Assessment of risk of bias . . . . .	267
2.4. Data synthesis . . . . .	267
3. Results . . . . .	267
3.1. Study selection . . . . .	267
3.2. Study characteristics . . . . .	267
3.3. Synthesis of results . . . . .	268
3.4. Risk of bias of the included studies . . . . .	270
4. Discussion . . . . .	270
4.1. Strengths and limitations . . . . .	272
4.2. Context, implications for health policy, and future research . . . . .	272
5. Conclusion . . . . .	272
6. Availability of data and materials . . . . .	272
Acknowledgements . . . . .	272
Funding . . . . .	272
Appendix A. Supplementary material . . . . .	272
References . . . . .	272

## 1. Introduction

Ramadan fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam and is mandatory for all healthy adult Muslims. It requires refraining from eating, drinking and the use of oral medications from sunrise to sunset for 29–30 consecutive days once a year. Although Ramadan fasting is not recommended for patients with Type 1 diabetes (T1DM) and a large proportion of patients with Type 2 diabetes (T2DM) [1–6], several recent studies show that many Muslim patients with diabetes do fast during Ramadan [7–9]. Previously, the epidemiology of diabetes and Ramadan (EPIDIAR) study of patients with diabetes from 13 countries across the MENA region found that 43% of patients with T1DM and 79% with T2DM fasted during Ramadan [10]. Fasting may lead to suboptimal management due to medication non-adherence [5] and result in hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, dehydration and diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) [7–9]. Indeed, the EPIDIAR study showed that the incidence of severe hypoglycemia requiring hospitalization during Ramadan increased by 4.7-fold in T1DM patients (3–14 events per 100 people) and by 7.5-fold in T2DM patients (0.4–3 events per 100 people) [10].

Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII) is associated with better glycemic control and fewer hypoglycemic events compared to MDI [11]. CSII has been shown to reduce the risk of hypoglycemia in children and adolescents [11–14]. The Canadian Study of Longevity in T1DM showed that whilst those on CSII compared to multiple daily insulin (MDI) did not differ in HbA1c ( $7.4 \pm 0.9\%$  vs.  $7.6 \pm 1.2\%$ ) and had a higher incidence of minor hypoglycemic events (6.5 vs. 5.1 events/patient/month) they had fewer severe hypoglycemic events (0.5 vs. 1.3 events/patient/year) [15]. Petrovski et al found that treatment with CSII in T1DM over 1 year reduced HbA1c from  $9.7 \pm 1.3$  to  $8.1 \pm 0.6\%$ , with a low incidence of severe hypoglycemia of 0.01 events per patient per year [16].

Whilst CSII may offer an advantage in patients with T1DM who choose to fast during Ramadan [17,18], there are limited and contrasting data on CSII during Ramadan [17]. Khalil et al

showed an improvement in HbA1c and a reduction in the total daily insulin dose [19], but another study showed an increased incidence of hypoglycemia [20] in patients on CSII during Ramadan. Kaplan et al showed no difference in the mean interstitial glucose or in the duration of euglycemia, hypoglycemia, or hyperglycemia comparing periods of Ramadan fasting and non-fasting, in T1DM patients on CSII compared to MDI [21]. Similarly, in a study comparing 61 T1DM patients on CSII with 95 T1DM patients on MDI who fasted during Ramadan, there was no difference in the rates of hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia, although the glucose variability captured via self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) and continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) was lower in those on CSII compared to MDI [22]. The aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis was to quantitatively synthesize the available literature on the effect of CSII compared to MDI on metabolic control and occurrence of hypoglycemia in patients with T1DM who fasted during Ramadan.

## 2. Methods

The systematic review and meta-analysis is reported in accordance with PRISMA guidelines [23]. The review protocol was registered with the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) on 9 November 2017 (CRD42017078057).

### 2.1. Data sources and extraction

Three databases were chosen to search for this systematic review: PubMed, Embase (Ovid), and the Cochrane Library. In the PubMed database and Cochrane Library; both MeSH subject headings and keywords were searched; in Embase Emtree subject headings and keywords were utilized. Numerous terms were tested for relevancy and the final search strings for the three databases can be found in Appendix A. Article languages were limited to those in English and no date

restrictions were set. A segment of the grey literature was searched through the use of Dissertation and Theses (ProQuest) and Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Science (CPCI-S) --1990-present/Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Science & Humanities (CPCI-SSH) --1990-present (Web of Science). The databases were searched from inception to January 2019. Citations resulting from the searches were all compiled into an EndNote library where they were de-duplicated. Citations were then uploaded into Covidence systematic review software where they were selected/deselected according to inclusion and exclusion criteria.

We included observational studies that reported on HbA<sub>1c</sub> in patients with T1DM on either CSII or MDI and fasted during Ramadan. Randomized controlled trials were also eligible. Studies from any country and ethnic group were included. All study designs were included except literature reviews and systematic reviews, correspondence and newspaper articles. Studies were included if they reported on at least one of the following at two time points (pre and post Ramadan or during-Ramadan and post-Ramadan): HbA<sub>1c</sub>; fasting plasma glucose; pre-prandial glucose; postprandial glucose; weight; BMI; neck, waist, hip; body fat mass; fat percent; lipid profile (total cholesterol; LDL-C; TG; HDL-C); SBP/DBP; hypoglycemic episodes, DKA; HONK; DVT; Hospital admission; emergency hospital visits; QoL; adherence to medication. Studies were excluded if they reported on fasting for other religious or spiritual purposes and if reporting on the outcome was at one-time point only (pre, during, or post Ramadan).

## 2.2. Data extraction

After removal of duplicates, all citations were screened for relevance using the full citation, abstract and indexing terms, before excluding studies deemed as not relevant. Where there was a lack of consensus a third author was consulted (RM). Duplicates were removed and the most recent and complete versions of the studies were reviewed for eligibility. Relevant studies were assessed by two reviewers (HG and HA) to assess eligibility according to the pre-specified inclusion and exclusion criteria. Possible full manuscripts of these potentially eligible citations were obtained. Two reviewers made the final inclusion and exclusion decisions independently. In case of disagreement, a third reviewer (RM) was consulted to resolve the conflicts. A PRISMA flow chart of search results was produced. A data extraction sheet was developed for extracting the data from each study. The data included specific details about the patients, exposure, setting and outcomes. Data extraction was done by one reviewer (HG), and all included studies were double checked by the second reviewer (HA). In the event of missing data, authors were contacted by email or telephone in order to obtain the unpublished information in writing.

## 2.3. Assessment of risk of bias

Included studies were assessed using the Risk of Bias In Non-randomized Studies – on Interventions (ROBINS-I) tool [24]. This tool categorizes the risk of bias as low, moderate, serious, critical, and unclear. Quality assessment was undertaken by

one reviewer and checked by a second reviewer and disagreements regarding the quality of a trial were resolved by consensus, or after consultation with the third reviewer (RM). If a study's risk of bias was serious, critical or unclear, the effect of removing this study was checked and relevant outcomes were reported.

## 2.4. Data synthesis

Meta-analysis was performed in RevMan (version 5.3) [25]. Random effects meta-analysis was used in anticipation of heterogeneity due to differences in study design and population. Standard mean differences (SMD) with 95% confidence intervals were calculated for the continuous variable; HbA<sub>1c</sub>%, weight (kg), lipid profile (mmol/L). The I<sup>2</sup> statistic was calculated, which is derived from Cochran's chi-squared test Q and is used to describe the percentage of between-study variations that is attributable to variability in the true exposure effect [26]. An I<sup>2</sup> value of 0–30% was classified as not important, 31–60% as moderate, 61–90% as substantial, and 91–100% as considerable [27]. Where studies presented different types of insulin or different modules on the insulin pump, continuous data were grouped and then averaged to obtain overall means and standard deviations.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Study selection

The search strategy identified 709 records (Fig. 1). After removing duplicates, 658 papers were screened on the basis of their titles and abstracts, out of which 352 were excluded, resulting in 306 papers being assessed using their full text. After exclusions, 17 citations were included in the systematic review (15 full-text articles and 2 conference proceedings). The final analysis on HbA<sub>1c</sub> included 9 studies (254 individuals on CSII compared to 264 on MDI); weight included 4 studies (190 individuals); total cholesterol, LDL-C, HDL-C and TG included 2 studies (96 individuals on MDI). Funnel plots were created to test for small-study effects.

### 3.2. Study characteristics

Nine studies reported on the primary outcome of HbA<sub>1c</sub> at two time-points [17,28–35], and three studies reported on it prior to Ramadan fasting only [36–38] (Appendix B). Only one study reported on fasting plasma glucose (FPG) and post prandial glucose at two time-points [39] and another study reported on FPG at one time-point only [36]. Four studies reported on weight at two time-points [28,30,31,36], and one study reported on it pre-Ramadan only [40]. Change in BMI pre and post Ramadan was assessed in one study [36] and was assessed at one time-point, pre-Ramadan by another study [32]. Waist circumference was reported pre and post-Ramadan by one study only [36]. Two studies reported on the lipid profile (TC, LDL-C, HDL-C, TG) at two time-points [30,31], while Ahmedani et al reported on the lipid profile pre-Ramadan only [36]. Only one study reported on SBP and DBP at two time-points [36]. One study reported on hypo-

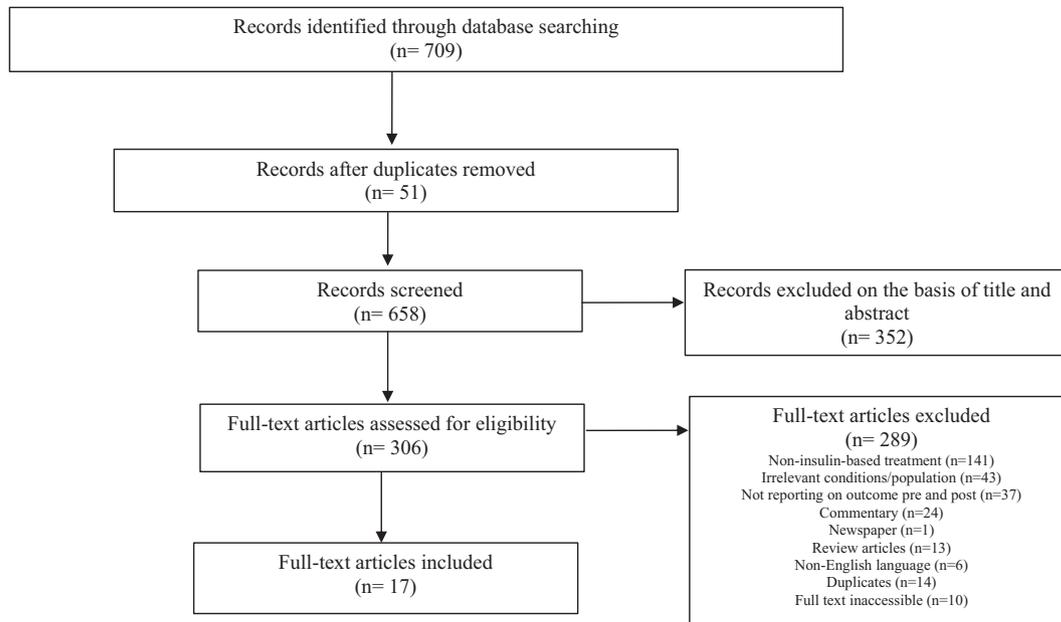


Fig. 1 – PRISMA diagram of included studies.

glycemia at one time-point pre-Ramadan [17], three studies reported at one time-point during Ramadan [30,35,36] and one study reported at one time-point post-Ramadan [37]. Only 1 study reported on hypoglycemia pre and during-Ramadan [40]. One study reported on DKA during Ramadan and the following month [29]. The incidence of hospitalization was assessed in two studies during and post-Ramadan [29,41] and at one time point prior to Ramadan by Ahmedani et al [36]. Hassanein et al reported on HbA<sub>1c</sub>%, weight, lipid profile, SBP and DBP before and after-Ramadan fasting in both T1DM and T2DM combined [42]. Another study reported on interstitial glucose (IG) levels during the Ramadan and non-Ramadan periods in T1DM patients on CSII and MDI [21]. Fourteen stud-

ies were of a prospective observational design [17,21,28,29,31–38,40], one was a prospective interventional study [42], one was a retrospective observational study [41], and one was a case-control study [30]. Studies were conducted in different geographical locations: Bangladesh [28]; Pakistan [36]; Malaysia [34]; UAE [17,21,29,42]; Saudi Arabia [30,32,35,37–39]; Lebanon [33]; Libya [41]; Tunisia [40]; and Egypt [31,32].

### 3.3. Synthesis of results

Data were available from 3 studies on 254 patients with T1DM on CSII who fasted during Ramadan [17,32,35]. There was no significant effect on HbA<sub>1c</sub> in the CSII group (SMD  $-0.16$ ,

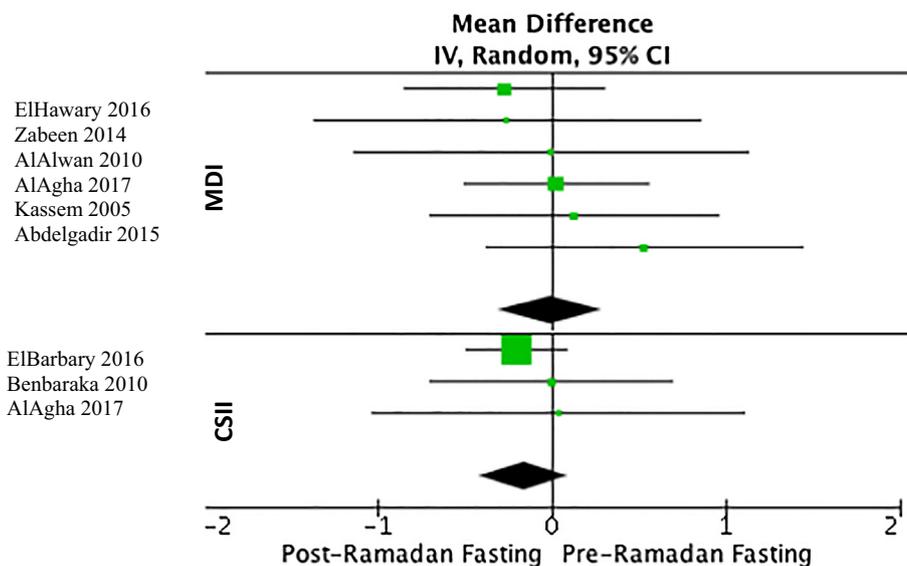


Fig. 2 – Forest Plot showing the mean difference in change in HbA<sub>1c</sub> pre and post Ramadan in patients on CSII and MDI. \*Data on the forest plot were sorted by an effect size. CSII: Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion; MDI: Multiple Daily Injections.

95% CI –0.41 to 0.10). Six studies assessed the effect of Ramadan fasting on change in HbA<sub>1c</sub> in 264 T1DM patients on MDI [17,28–31,33,35] and showed no significant change (SMD –0.01, 95% CI –0.46 to 0.44) (Fig. 2). Heterogeneity for outcomes was I<sup>2</sup> = 0% (Table 1). Studies reporting on outcomes at one time-point (pre, during, or post-Ramadan) were not included in the meta-analysis as they did not allow for a comparison of the effect of fasting on glycemic and metabolic control. Single studies reporting on the outcomes of interest were not eligible to be included in the quantitative synthesis of this meta-analysis as recommended by the Cochrane group, the meta-analysis should combine results from two or more separate studies [43]. None of the included studies reported on any of the secondary outcomes.

Studies that reported on patients with T1DM and T2DM were included and data were extracted for T1DM only [29]. Nor Azlin et al provided HbA<sub>1c</sub> data at two time-points, but the study could not be included in the meta-analysis as the data was presented as cumulative values from participants

with T1DM, T2DM, and GDM [34]. Similarly Hassanein et al reported on outcomes as cumulative values for patients with T1DM and T2DM [42] and Kaplan et al reported on cumulative interstitial glucose values in T1DM patients on either CSII or MDI [21].

Four studies reported on the effect of Ramadan fasting on weight change in patients with T1DM on MDI and showed a non-significant reduction (SMD –0.39, 95% CI –3.35 to 2.57; P = 0.080) (Fig. 3) [28,30,31,36]. There were insufficient data reporting on weight change during Ramadan in patients on CSII. Only one study reported on the change in BMI and waist circumference pre and post Ramadan fasting [36], but could not be included in the meta-analysis as per the Cochrane recommendations [43]. Elbarbary et al reported on the BMI of patients on CSII at baseline only [32]. Only 2 studies [30,31] reported on a change in the lipid profile in patients on MDI (Fig. 4): total cholesterol (SMD 0.24, 95% CI –0.24 to 0.72); LDL-C (SMD –0.14, 95% CI –0.03 to 0.31); HDL-C (SMD –0.04, 95% CI –0.14 to 0.06); TG (SMD 0.01, 95% CI –0.09 to 0.11) (Table 2).

**Table 1 – Results of the meta-analysis of the studies investigating the effect of CSII vs. MDI on change in HbA<sub>1c</sub> before and after Ramadan.**

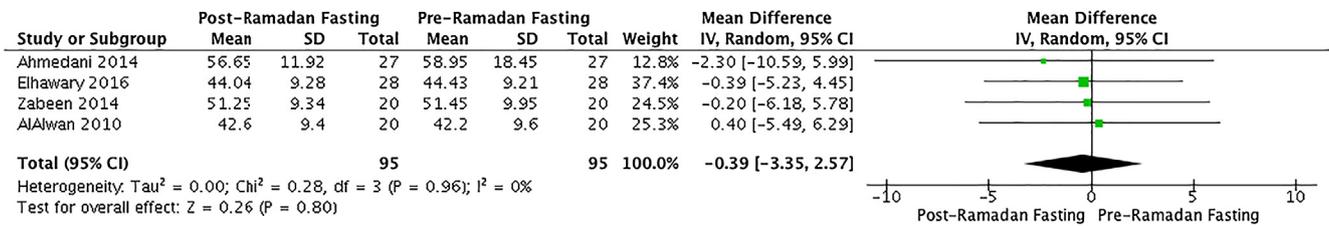
Studies	Weight (%)	Standard mean difference (SMD) (%)	95% CI		P value for difference	I <sup>2</sup> (%)	P value for publication bias
			Lower	Upper			
<i>CSII</i>							
Elbarbary 2016 [32]	93.4	–0.20	–0.48	0.08	0.22	0	0.81
Benbaraka 2010 [17]	13.6	0	–0.69	0.69			
Alagha 2017 [35]	6.6	0.04	–1.03	1.11			
<i>MDI</i>							
Elhawary 2016 [31]	19.3	–0.40	–1.26	0.46	0.97	0	0.78
AlAlwan 2010 [30]	5	0	–1.70	1.70			
Alagha 2017 [35]	23.2	0.04	–0.75	0.83			
Kassem 2005 [33]	9.3	0.20	–1.05	1.45			
Abdelgadir 2015 [29]	7.8	0.80	–0.56	2.16			
Zabeen 2014 [28]	5.3	–0.38	–2.04	1.28			

\*CSII: Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion; MDI: Multiple Daily Injections.

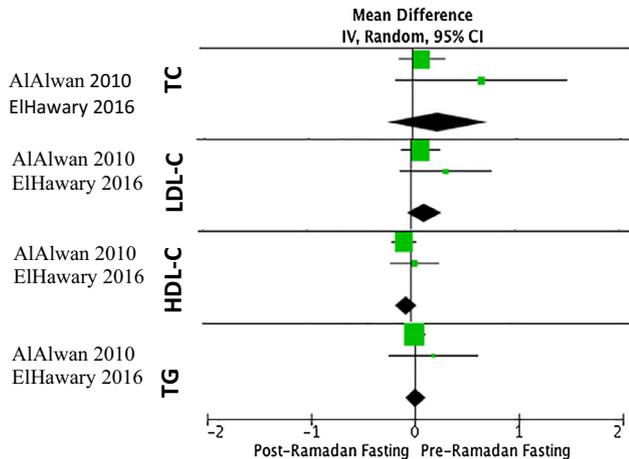
**Table 2 – Meta-analysis of the change in lipid profile in T1DM patients on MDI before and after Ramadan.**

Studies	Weight (%)	Standard Mean Difference (SMD) (%)	95% CI		P value for difference	I <sup>2</sup> (%)	P value for publication bias
			Lower	Upper			
<i>Total Cholesterol (mmol/L)</i>							
AlAlwan 2010 [30]	75.1	0.10	–0.12	0.32	0.33	42	0.19
Elhawary 2016 [31]	24.9	0.67	–0.15	1.49			
<i>LDL-C (mmol/L)</i>							
AlAlwan 2010 [30]	84	0.10	–0.09	0.29	0.12	0	0.32
Elhawary 2016 [31]	15.4	0.34	–0.10	0.78			
<i>HDL-C (mmol/L)</i>							
AlAlwan 2010 [30]	79	–0.06	–0.18	0.06	0.46	0	0.44
Elhawary 2016 [31]	21	0.04	–0.18	0.26			
<i>TG (mmol/L)</i>							
AlAlwan 2010 [30]	94	0	–0.10	0.10	0.85	0	0.42
Elhawary 2016 [31]	5.2	0.18	–0.25	0.61			

\*TC: total cholesterol; LDL-C: Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C: High-density lipoprotein cholesterol; TG: Triglycerides.



**Fig. 3 – Forest Plot showing the mean difference in change in weight (kg) pre and post Ramadan in patients on MDI. \*Data on the forest plot were sorted by an effect size.**



**Fig. 4 – Forest Plot showing the mean difference in change in lipid profile (mmol/L) pre and post Ramadan in patients on MDI. \*Data on the forest plot were sorted by an effect size. TC: total cholesterol; LDL-C: Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HDL-C: High-density lipoprotein cholesterol; TG: Triglycerides.**

### 3.4. Risk of bias of the included studies

Egger's test resulted in a value of  $P = 0.81$  in the CSII group and  $P = 0.78$  in the MDI group, which indicates that there was no significant influence of small study effects on the results. No studies were assessed as having a high risk of bias so the analyses presented include results from all selected studies (Table 3). When removing small studies from the analysis, the SMD and 95% CI changed, but  $I^2$  remained the same and the  $P$ -value remained non-significant ( $P > 0.05$ ), thus all studies were included in calculating the overall effect size.

## 4. Discussion

There are no published randomized head to head studies comparing CSII with MDI in patients with T1DM who fast during Ramadan. Nine studies reporting on the change in  $\text{HbA}_{1c}$  during Ramadan in patients on CSII or MDI were included in the meta-analysis. There was no significant effect of Ramadan fasting on  $\text{HbA}_{1c}$  in individuals with T1DM on CSII or MDI. There were insufficient data to perform meta-analysis on the other primary and secondary outcomes including: fasting plasma glucose; pre-prandial glucose; postprandial glucose; SBP/DBP; hypoglycemic episodes, DKA; DVT; hospital

admissions; QoL and medication adherence to compare between CSII and MDI. There was no effect on weight in patients with T1DM on MDI who fasted during Ramadan in four studies [28,30,31,36] and there was no change in total cholesterol, LDL-C, HDL-C and TG in two studies [30,31]. Five studies reported on hypoglycemic events at one time point; either before Ramadan [17], during Ramadan [30,35,36], or following the month of Ramadan [37], which did not allow their inclusion in the meta-analysis to assess the impact of Ramadan fasting. Of the 17 studies included in the systematic review, only one study reported on the incidence of DKA and hospital admission during Ramadan and the following month [29]. Thirty-percent of hospital admissions with DKA were considered to be due to non-compliance, while the remaining 70% of hospital admissions with DKA were due to missed doses (21%); urinary tract infection (19%); fever (8%); gastroenteritis (6%) newly diagnosed T1DM (4%); gastritis (2%) and appendicitis (2%) [29]. The studies reporting on hypoglycemia did not follow a standard measure in defining and reporting hypoglycemic episodes. One study reported hypoglycemic events as the number of episodes (273 in the CSII group and 354 in the MDI group) and a mean  $\pm$  SD and range ( $0.56 \pm 0.35$  (range, 0–7) [35]. Similarly, Abid et al reported on the overall population of patients with T1DM and T2DM, pre-Ramadan ( $1.31 \pm 2.22$ ), severe hypoglycemic episodes ( $0.22 \pm 0.70$ ), number of hypoglycemic episodes during Ramadan ( $0.75 \pm 1.62$ ) and no severe hypoglycemic episodes [40]. Two studies reported the number of cases/total population with hypoglycemia during Ramadan fasting with 17/49 in one study [17] and 6/27 in the other [36]; and 1 study stated that patients experienced hypoglycemia during Ramadan without any quantitative measure [30]. Other studies have reported on the incidence of hypoglycemia during Ramadan in patients with T1DM on CSII with the low-glucose suspend (LGS) feature on and off in relation to the number of hypoglycemic excursions ( $3.68 \pm 1.62$  vs.  $6.7 \pm 2.1$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ) and the duration of hypoglycemia in minutes ( $110.5 \pm 74.8$  vs.  $167.1 \pm 53.1$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ) [32]. Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) in T1DM patients during Ramadan showed no difference in the rate of mild (CSII- $8.6 \pm 6.1$  vs. MDI- $9.85 \pm 9.34$ ) or severe (CSII- $0.99 \pm 1.7$  vs. MDI- $1.7 \pm 4.7$ ) hypoglycemia [22]. Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) in T1DM patients during Ramadan has shown that the rate of hyperglycemia (48%) was higher than hypoglycemia (10%), with only 4/22 patients experiencing mild hypoglycemia [44]. Another study of CGM in patients with T1DM during Ramadan showed no significant difference in the mean low IG index during Ramadan ( $5.67$

**Table 3 – Risk of bias assessment for Non-Randomized studies.**

Studies	Bias due to confounding	Bias in selection of participants	Bias in classification of intervention	Bias due to deviations from intended intervention	Bias due to missing data	Bias in measurement of outcome	Bias in selection of the reported results
Elbarbary 2016 [32]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alagha 2017 [35]	-	-	-	-	?	+	+
Benbaraka 2010 [17]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elhawary 2016 [31]	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
AlAlwan2010 [30]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kassem 2005 [33]	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
Abdelgadir 2015 [29]	+	+	?	?	-	-	-
Zabeen 2014 [28]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ahmedani 2014 [36]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Yes = +; No = -; unclear = ?.

$\pm 5.04$ ) compared to the non-Ramadan ( $6.63 \pm 53.16$ ) period [21]. The lack of a standard method of reporting hypoglycemia did not allow comparison of the incidence of hypoglycemia among the included studies. This highlights the need for further studies with accurate reporting on the type of hypoglycemia (mild, moderate, severe), the number of patients/total population and number of patients with severe hypoglycemia requiring hospitalization. One study assessed hospital admissions during Ramadan and after Ramadan (13 patients vs. 9 patients), however data was presented for the overall population of patients with T1DM and T2DM and did not state the incidence of hospital admissions in T1DM only [41]. None of the included studies reported on the incidence of DVT, emergency visits, adherence to medications and QoL in T1DM patients during Ramadan fasting.

The use of CSII has increased in patients with T1DM and studies support the use of CSII based on the potential for better glycemic control and a lower incidence of hypoglycemia [19,22]. Indeed, the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the United Kingdom, the American Diabetes Association (ADA), and the European Association for the study of diabetes (EASD) recommend CSII as the best option for insulin treatment in individuals with T1DM [45–49]. However, there are limited data on the benefits or harm of CSII during Ramadan fasting and therefore, opinions are divided regarding the use of CSII during Ramadan fasting [50–52]. Al-Arouj and colleagues considered the use of CSII during Ramadan as an absolute contraindication [50]. Whereas another study suggested that CSII had appeal but they were concerned regarding its cost and the frequency of glucose monitoring [49]. Shaikh et al advised that patients using CSII should adjust their infusion rates according to their home glucose monitoring, but without any supporting evidence [52].

#### 4.1. Strengths and limitations

This is the first meta-analysis to compare the effect of CSII and MDI in T1DM patients who fast during Ramadan. It highlights the scarcity of data in this area and identifies a current gap in the literature and the need for future research on CSII during Ramadan. The limitations of our systematic review are that the number of included studies in this review is very small and the number of patients in these studies was few, limiting our ability to draw firm conclusions. The studies were also undertaken in different geographical areas and different cultural conditions as well as dietary habits. Also, only resources published in English were included in this review.

#### 4.2. Context, implications for health policy, and future research

Systematic reviews and meta-analysis are not without critics; however, they summarize the best available evidence and identify deficiencies in current evidence. Our data show no significant difference in the change in HbA<sub>1c</sub> during fasting in individuals with T1DM on either CSII or MDI. Thus, there was neither advantage nor harm in relation to glycemic control for either intervention during Ramadan in patients with T1DM. It may be argued that HbA<sub>1c</sub> does not adequately cap-

ture change in glycemic control over the short period (~30 days) of fasting during Ramadan. Thus, alternate measures such as change in SMBG profiles and continuous glucose monitoring may be more useful. Whilst CSII should impact on hypoglycemia, this was not adequately assessed in the studies to date and could not be included as an endpoint in the analysis. Additionally, other metabolic benefits such as an alteration in lipids, BMI and acute complications such as DKA were not captured in these studies.

## 5. Conclusion

With the rising number of T1DM Muslims who fast during Ramadan, healthcare professionals are required to be aware of the risk and benefits of fasting during Ramadan and to provide Ramadan specific diabetes care. Hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia represent the greatest health concerns for both patients and caregivers and any measures to limit these complications should be considered. On the basis of the limited available evidence, this meta-analysis shows that CSII and MDI are comparable in relation to change in glycaemic control during Ramadan fasting in patients with T1DM. MDI has no impact on weight or the lipid profile. Larger more carefully designed studies are needed to establish the impact of CSII on the incidence of minor and major hypoglycemia, overall glycemic perturbations captured via continuous glucose monitoring and DKA.

## 6. Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and its [supplementary information](#) files.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Sarwat Mahmud, Epidemiologist, from the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, & Biomathematics Research Core at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar who provided insight and expertise that greatly assisted the research.

## Funding

This review was not funded. Supported by Qatar National Research Fund Grant BMRP20038654.

## Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2019.02.019>.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Beshyah WS, Beshyah SA. Bibliometric Analysis of the Literature on Ramadan Fasting and Diabetes in The Past Three Decades (1989–2018). *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2019;151:313–22.

- [2] Alabood MH, Ho KW, Simons MR. The effect of Ramadan fasting on glycaemic control in insulin dependent diabetic patients: a literature review. *Diabetes Metab Syndr* 2017;11(1):83–7.
- [3] International Diabetes Federation (IDF) icwtDaRDIA. *Diabetes and Ramadan: Practical Guidelines 2016* [Available from: <<https://www.idf.org/e-library/guidelines/87-diabetes-and-ramadan-practical-25>>].
- [4] Akbani MF, Gadit WU, Ahmed M, Basit A, Malik RA. Fasting and feasting safely during Ramadan in the patient with diabetes. *Pract Diabet Int* 2005;22(3):100–4.
- [5] Abolaban H, Al-Moujahed A. Muslim patients in Ramadan: a review for primary care physicians. *Avicenna J Med* 2017;7(3):81–7.
- [6] Hassanein M, Al-Arouj M, Hamdy O, Bebakar WMW, Jabbar A, Al-Madani A, et al. Diabetes and Ramadan: practical guidelines. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2017;126:303–16.
- [7] Hassanein M, Al Awadi FF, El Hadidy KES, Ali SS, Echtay A, Djaballah K, Dessapt-Baradez C, Khazaal FAK, Abu-Hijleh MO, Al Shaikh A, Gharbi MEH, Shehadeh N, Bennakhi A, Al Arouj M. The characteristics and pattern of care for the type 2 diabetes mellitus population in the MENA region during Ramadan: An international prospective study (DAR-MENA T2DM). *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2019;141:275–84.
- [8] Malek R, Hannat S, Nechadi A, Mekideche FZ, Kaabeche M. Diabetes and Ramadan: A multicenter study in Algerian population. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2019;150:322–30.
- [9] Beshyah SA, Hassanein M, Ahmedani MY, Shaikh S, Ba-Essa EM, Megallaa MH, Afandi B, Ibrahim F, Al-Muzaffar T. Diabetic hypoglycaemia during Ramadan fasting: A transnational observational real-world study. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2019;150:315–21.
- [10] Salti I, Benard E, Detournay B, Bianchi-Biscay M, Le Brigand C, Voinet C, et al. A population-based study of diabetes and its characteristics during the fasting month of Ramadan in 13 countries: results of the epidemiology of diabetes and Ramadan 1422/2001 (EPIDIAR) study. *Diabetes Care* 2004;27(10):2306–11.
- [11] Thomakos P, Vazeou A, Sakkas D, Panagopoulos G, Anifantakis K, Smyrnaki P, et al. Avoiding hypoglycemia: the use of insulin pump combined with continuous glucose monitor in type 1 diabetes crossing a Rocky Gorge. *QJM* 2018;111(9):629–33.
- [12] Pozzilli P, Battelino T, Danne T, Hovorka R, Jarosz-Chobot P, Renard E. Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion in diabetes: patient populations, safety, efficacy, and pharmacoeconomics. *Diabetes Metab Res Rev* 2016;32(1):21–39.
- [13] Gomez AM, Henao DC, Imitola A, Munoz OM, Sepulveda MAR, Kattah L, et al. Efficacy and safety of sensor-augmented pump therapy (SAPT) with predictive low-glucose management in patients diagnosed with type 1 diabetes mellitus previously treated with SAPT and low glucose suspend. *Endocrinol Diabetes Nutr* 2018;65(8):451–7.
- [14] Moreno-Fernandez J, Pazos-Couselo M, Gonzalez-Rodriguez M, Rozas P, Delgado M, Aguirre M, et al. Clinical value of Flash glucose monitoring in patients with type 1 diabetes treated with continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion. *Endocrinol Diabetes Nutr* 2018;65(10):556–63.
- [15] Boulet G, Halpern EM, Lovblom LE, Weisman A, Bai JW, Eldelekl D, et al. Prevalence of insulin pump therapy and its association with measures of glycemic control: results from the Canadian study of longevity in type 1 Diabetes. *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2016;18(5):298–307.
- [16] Petrovski G, Al Khalaf F, Hussain K, Campbell J, El Awwa A. Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion characteristics in type 1 diabetes children and adolescents in Qatar. *Diabetes Ther* 2018;9(5):2091–8.
- [17] Benbarka MM, Khalil AB, Beshyah SA, Marjei S, Awad SA. Insulin pump therapy in Moslem patients with type 1 diabetes during Ramadan fasting: an observational report. *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2010;12(4):287–90.
- [18] Bin-Abbas BS. Insulin pump therapy during Ramadan fasting in type 1 diabetic adolescents. *Ann Saudi Med* 2008;28(4):305–6.
- [19] Khalil AB, Beshyah SA, Abu Awad SM, Benbarka MM, Haddad M, Al-Hassan D, et al. Ramadan fasting in diabetes patients on insulin pump therapy augmented by continuous glucose monitoring: an observational real-life study. *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2012;14(9):813–8.
- [20] Deeb A, Al Qahtani N, Attia S, Al Suwaidi H, Nagelkerke N. Does reducing basal insulin during Ramadan fasting by children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes decrease the risk of symptomatic hypoglycemia? *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2016;18(9):539–42.
- [21] Kaplan W, Afandi B, Al Hassani N, Hadi S, Zoubeidi T. Comparison of continuous glucose monitoring in adolescents with type 1 diabetes: Ramadan versus non-Ramadan. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2017;134:178–82.
- [22] Alamoudi R, Alsubaiee M, Alqarni A, Saleh Y, Aljaser S, Salam A, et al. Comparison of insulin pump therapy and multiple daily injections insulin regimen in patients with type 1 diabetes during Ramadan fasting. *Diabetes Technol Ther* 2017;19(6):349–54.
- [23] The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) [updated October 2015; cited 2018 12 December 2018]. Available from: <<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>>.
- [24] Sterne Jonathan AC HMA, Reeves Barnaby C, Savović Jelena, Berkman Nancy D, Viswanathan Meera et al. ROBINS-I: a tool for assessing risk of bias in non-randomised studies of interventions *BMJ*. 2016;355:i4919.
- [25] Community C. RevMan 5 [cited 2018 12 December 2018]. Available from: <<https://community.cochrane.org/help/tools-and-software/revman-5>>.
- [26] Higgins JP, Thompson SG, Deeks JJ, Altman DG. Measuring inconsistency in meta-analyses. *BMJ* 2003;327(7414):557–60.
- [27] Deeks JJJ, Altman DG. Analysing data and undertaking metaanalyses. *Cochrane Handb Syst Rev Interv* 2008:243–96.
- [28] Zabeen B, Tayyeb S, Benarjee B, Baki A, Nahar J, Mohsin F, et al. Fasting during Ramadan in adolescents with diabetes. *Indian J Endocrinol Metab* 2014;18(1):44–7.
- [29] Abdelgadir EIEHK, Basheir AMK, Afandi BO, Alawadi F, et al. Comparison of incidences, hospital stay and precipitating factors of diabetic ketoacidosis in ramadan and the following month in three major hospitals in united arab emirates. A prospective observational study. *J Diabetes Metab* 2015;6:514.
- [30] AlAlwan AAB A. Effects of Ramadan fasting on children with Type 1 diabetes. *Int J Diabetes Mellit* 2010;2(2):127–9.
- [31] El-Hawary A, Salem N, Elsharkawy A, Metwali A, Wafa A, Chalaby N, et al. Safety and metabolic impact of Ramadan fasting in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes. *J Pediatr Endocrinol Metab* 2016;29(5):533–41.
- [32] Elbarbary NS. Effectiveness of the low-glucose suspend feature of insulin pump during fasting during Ramadan in type 1 diabetes mellitus. *Diabetes Metab Res Rev* 2016;32(6):623–33.
- [33] Kassem HS, Zantout MS, Azar ST. Insulin therapy during Ramadan fast for Type 1 diabetes patients. *J Endocrinol Invest* 2005;28(9):802–5.
- [34] Nor Azlin MI, Adam R, Sufian SS, Wahab NA, Mustafa N, Kamaruddin NA, et al. Safety and tolerability of once or twice daily neutral protamine hagedorn insulin in fasting pregnant women with diabetes during Ramadan. *J Obstet Gynaecol Res* 2011;37(2):132–7.

- [35] Al-Agha AE, Kafi SE, Zain Aldeen AM, Khadwardi RH. Flash glucose monitoring system may benefit children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes during fasting at Ramadan. *Saudi Med J* 2017;38(4):366–71.
- [36] Ahmedani MY, Alvi SF, Haque MS, Fawwad A, Basit A. Implementation of Ramadan-specific diabetes management recommendations: a multi-centered prospective study from Pakistan. *J Diabetes Metab Disord* 2014;13(1):37.
- [37] Alamoudi RAM, Alqarni A, Saleh Y, Aljaser S, Altamimi A, et al. Incidence of hypoglycemia in type1 diabetes patients who fast ramadan; insulin pump compared to multi-dose insulin injection. *Endocrine Society's 98th Annual Meeting and Expo*; April 2, 2016; Boston 2016.
- [38] Alamoudi R, Alsubaiee M, Alqarni A, Aljaser S, Saleh Y, Salam A, et al. Attitudes and habits of patients with type 1 diabetes during fasting Ramadan. *J Clin Transl Endocrinol* 2018;14:1–4.
- [39] Sulimani RA. Insulin treatment of pregnant diabetic patients during Ramadan; January/February 1998: *Practical Diabetes International Supplement*; 1998.
- [40] Abid M, Hsairi M, Elleuch M, Ben Aissa E. Survey on diabetic patients treated with insulin during the fasting month of Ramadan. *Int J Gen Med* 2018;11:33–40.
- [41] Elbarsha A, Elhemri M, Lawgaly SA, Rajab A, Almoghrabi B, Elmehdawia RR. Outcomes and hospital admission patterns in patients with diabetes during Ramadan versus a non-fasting period. *Ann Saudi Med* 2018;38(5):344–51.
- [42] Hassanein M, Abdelgadir E, Bashier A, Rashid F, Saeed MA, Khalifa A, et al. The role of optimum diabetes care in form of Ramadan focused diabetes education, flash glucose monitoring system and pre-Ramadan dose adjustments in the safety of Ramadan fasting in high risk patients with diabetes. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2019;150:288–95.
- [43] Higgins JPT GSe. *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd, the triumph, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8SQ, England, Telephone (+44) 1243 779777; 2017.
- [44] Alfadhli EM. Higher rate of hyperglycemia than hypoglycemia during Ramadan fasting in patients with uncontrolled type 1 diabetes: insight from continuous glucose monitoring system. *Saudi Pharm J* 2018;26(7):965–9.
- [45] Phillip M, Battelino T, Rodriguez H, Danne T, Kaufman F, European Society for Paediatric E, et al. Use of insulin pump therapy in the pediatric age-group: consensus statement from the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology, the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, and the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes, endorsed by the American Diabetes Association and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes. *Diabetes Care* 2007;30(6):1653–62.
- [46] Pickup J. Long-term use of continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract* 2006;74(2):S101–3.
- [47] Pickup J, Keen H. Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion at 25 years: evidence base for the expanding use of insulin pump therapy in type 1 diabetes. *Diabetes Care* 2002;25(3):593–8.
- [48] Pickup J, Mattock M, Kerry S. Glycaemic control with continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion compared with intensive insulin injections in patients with type 1 diabetes: meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. *BMJ* 2002;324(7339):705.
- [49] Excellence NifHaC. Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion for the treatment of diabetes mellitus [updated 23 July 2008; cited 2018 13 December 2018]. Available from <<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta151>>.
- [50] Al-Arouj M, Bouguerra R, Buse J, Hafez S, Hassanein M, Ibrahim MA, et al. Recommendations for management of diabetes during Ramadan. *Diabetes Care* 2005;28(9):2305–11.
- [51] Board: DaRA. International medical recommendations for Muslim subjects with diabetes mellitus who fast during the month of Ramadan. *Clin Diabetes (Middle East Ed)* 2004;3:143–5.
- [52] Shaikh SJD, Morrissey J, Patel V. Diabetes care and Ramadan: to fast or not to fast? *Br J Diabetes Vascular Dis* 2001;1:65–7.