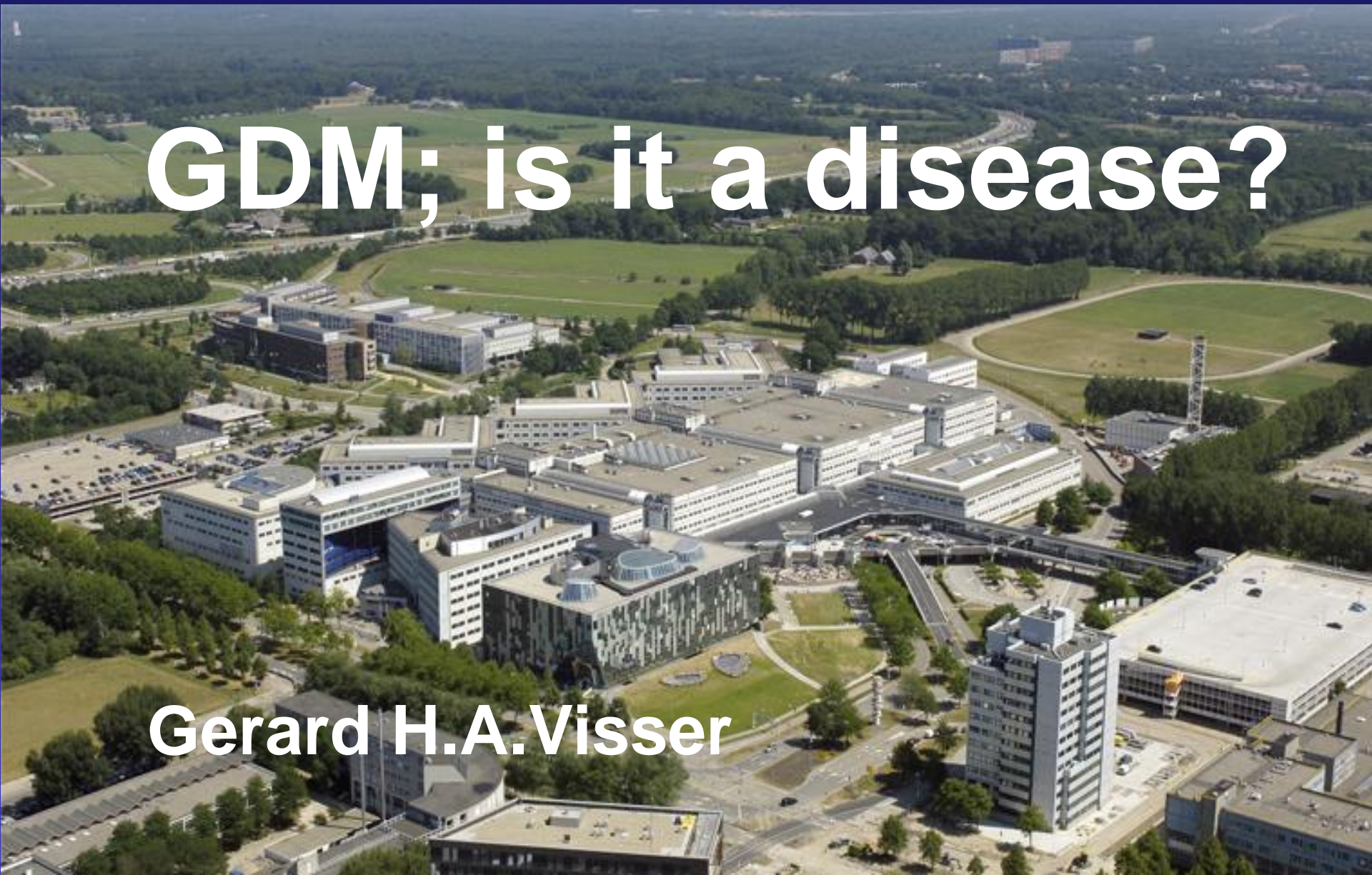


# University Medical Center, Utrecht, the NL

**GDM; is it a disease?**

**Gerard H.A. Visser**



# GDM; is it a disease?

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- Yes ( related to fetal macrosomia and associated complications)
- Usually mild ( diet); 20% requires insulin
- May have long term consequences for the offspring (?)
- Or is it maternal obesity which is the biggest problem?
- How rigorous should we be in identifying all cases of GDM?

# Treatment improves outcome

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- **Screening is therefore useful**
  - Mortality
  - Birth trauma
  - LGA
  - % CS (Landon et al, only)
- } 50% reduction

# Outcome after screening is better than outcome following symptoms

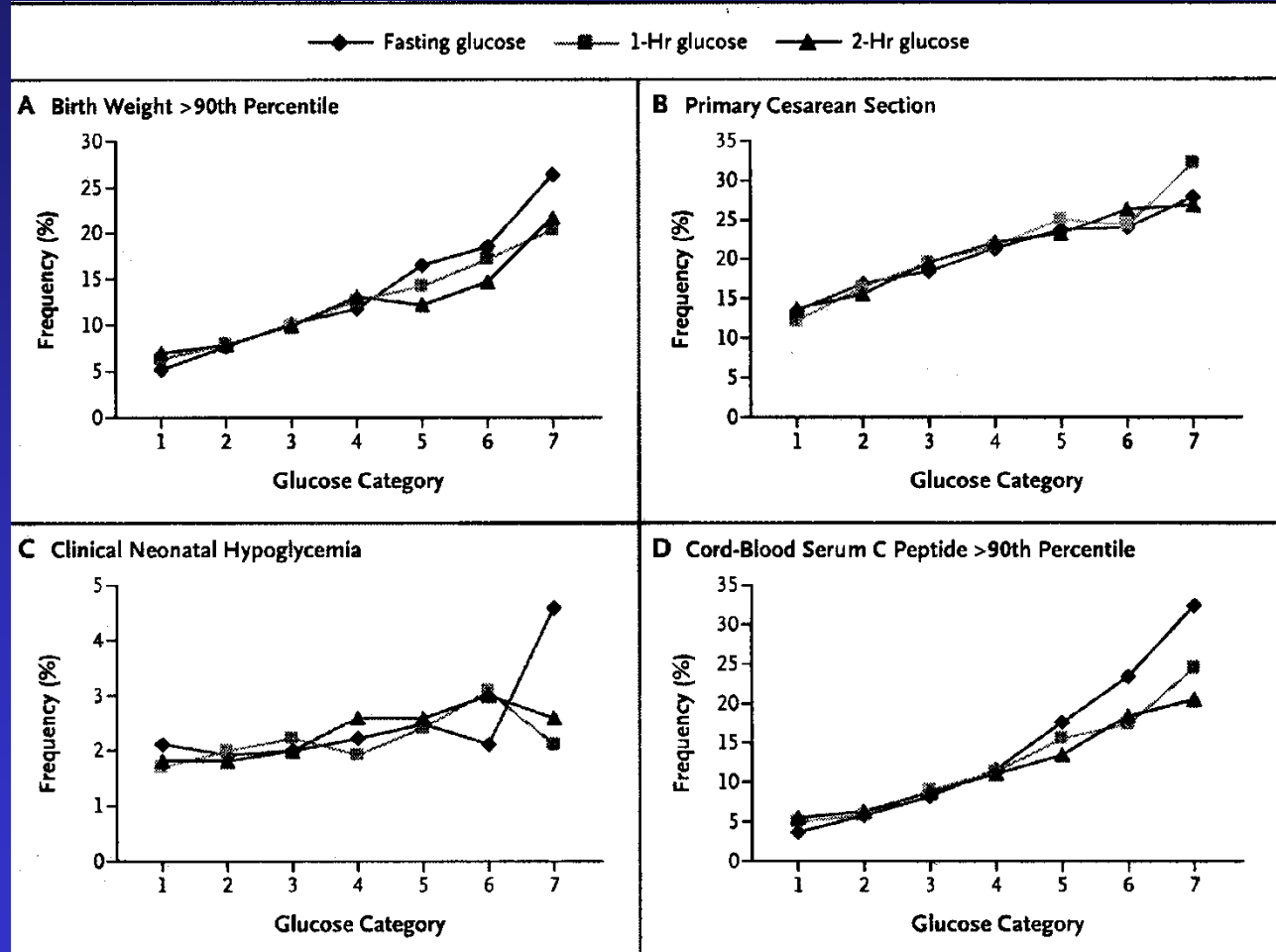
	screening	symptoms
• N	175	74
• BMI	30	26
• GA at diagnosis (wks)	27	31
• HbA1c at diagnosis (%)	5.4	5.5

# Outcome after screening is better than outcome following symptoms

	screening	symptoms
• N	175	74
• BMI	30	26
• GA at diagnosis (wks)	27	31
• HbA1c at diagnosis (%)	5.4	5.5
• FAC > 90 <sup>th</sup> centile (%)	33	68
• Birthweight > 90 <sup>th</sup> centile (%)	17	36
• Birthweight > 97.7 <sup>th</sup> centile (%)	5	16

# So, screen everyone, but how ?

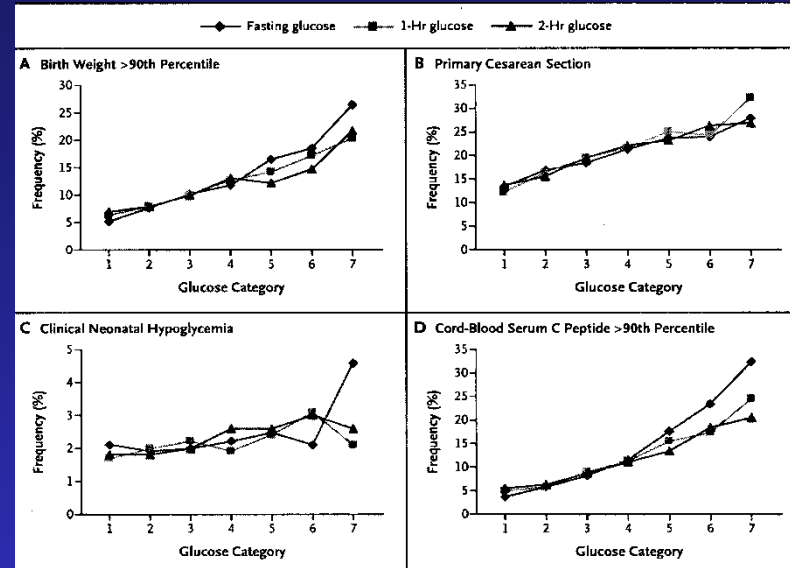
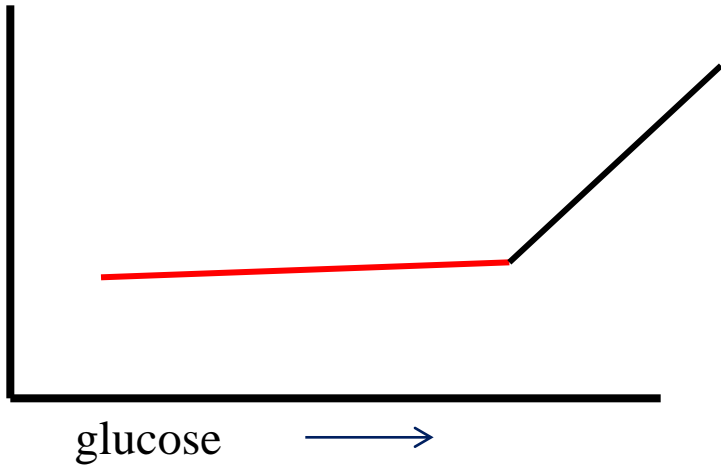
## HAPO study



(NEJM, May 8, 2008)

# Gestational diabetes

Birth Weight >90<sup>th</sup> centile



# So we may conclude that.....

- oGTT threshold values, for normality or otherwise, are –by definition– arbitrary, given the linear relationship between glucose values and impaired outcome



**University Medical Center, Utrecht, the NL**

# **Threshold values for oGTT**

**tell me how many GDM you want and  
I will give you the formula**

**Gerard H.A. Visser**

# Gestational diabetes according to the IADPSG

75 g OGTT:      fasting => 5.1 mmol/l  
                    1 hour => 10.0  
                    2 hour => 8.5

Diagnostic criteria based on 1.75 fold  
increase in LGA infant

(Metzger et al, Diab Care, 2010)

Prevalence of GDM of

17.8%

# It is the question if are we ready for such an increase in GDM?

- Don't we make the healthy sick  
( stop harming the healthy, Moynihan et al, BMJ 2012)
- Does outcome really improve
- Shouldn't we look more for women with risk factors
- Etc
- And the answer is: we do not know !

# ‘Preventing overdiagnosis: how to stop harming the healthy’ Moynihan et al, BMJ 2012

Drivers for over-diagnosis:

- Technological changes detecting even smaller abnormalities
- Commercial and professional vested interests
- Conflicting panels producing expanded disease definitions and writing guidelines
- Legal incentives that punish under-diagnosis but not over-diagnosis
- Health system incentives favoring more tests and treatments
- Cultural belief that more is better

# Gestational diabetes

75 g OGTT:      fasting => 5.1 mmol/l  
                  1 hour => 10.0  
                  2 hour => 8.5

Diagnostic criteria based on 1.75 fold  
increase in LGA infant

(Metzger et al, Diab Care, 2010;33:676-682)

Prevalence of GDM of

17.8%

75 g OGTT:      fasting =>5.3 mmol/l  
                  1 hour => 10.6  
                  2 hour => 9.0

Diagnostic criteria based on 2 fold  
increase in LGA infant

(E.A.Rian, Diabetologia 2011;54:480-486)

Prevalence of GDM of

10.5%

# IADPSG criteria

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## Accepted

ADA

WHO

Brasil

Italy

Germany

Japan

## Rejected

ACOG

NIH

Spain

NZ



## CLINICAL OPINION

www.AJOG.org

### OBSTETRICS

# Is the evidence strong enough to change the diagnostic criteria for gestational diabetes now?

Gerard H. A. Visser, MD; Harold W. de Valk, MD, PhD

In 2008, the Hyperglycemia and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes (HAPO) study group published the results of a large international observational study on the relationship between second-trimester oral glucose tolerance test (oGTT) values and outcome.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, there was a linear relationship among fasting, 1-hour and 2-hour glucose values, and the frequency of primary cesarean delivery, fetal macrosomia (birth weight >90th centile), clinical neonatal hypo-

The International Association of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups has proposed new thresholds for oral glucose tolerance test that are based on the large observational Hyperglycemia and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes study. By using these criteria about 18% of pregnant women will be diagnosed as having gestational diabetes mellitus. The question arises if we are ready for such an enormous increase in gestational diabetes mellitus patients, if outcome would really be by using these criteria, and if additional studies are necessary before deciding on new diagnostic thresholds. In this clinical opinion, the pros and cons will be discussed.

**Key words:** adverse pregnancy outcome, diabetes mellitus, glucose intolerance, metabolic syndrome, oral glucose tolerance test

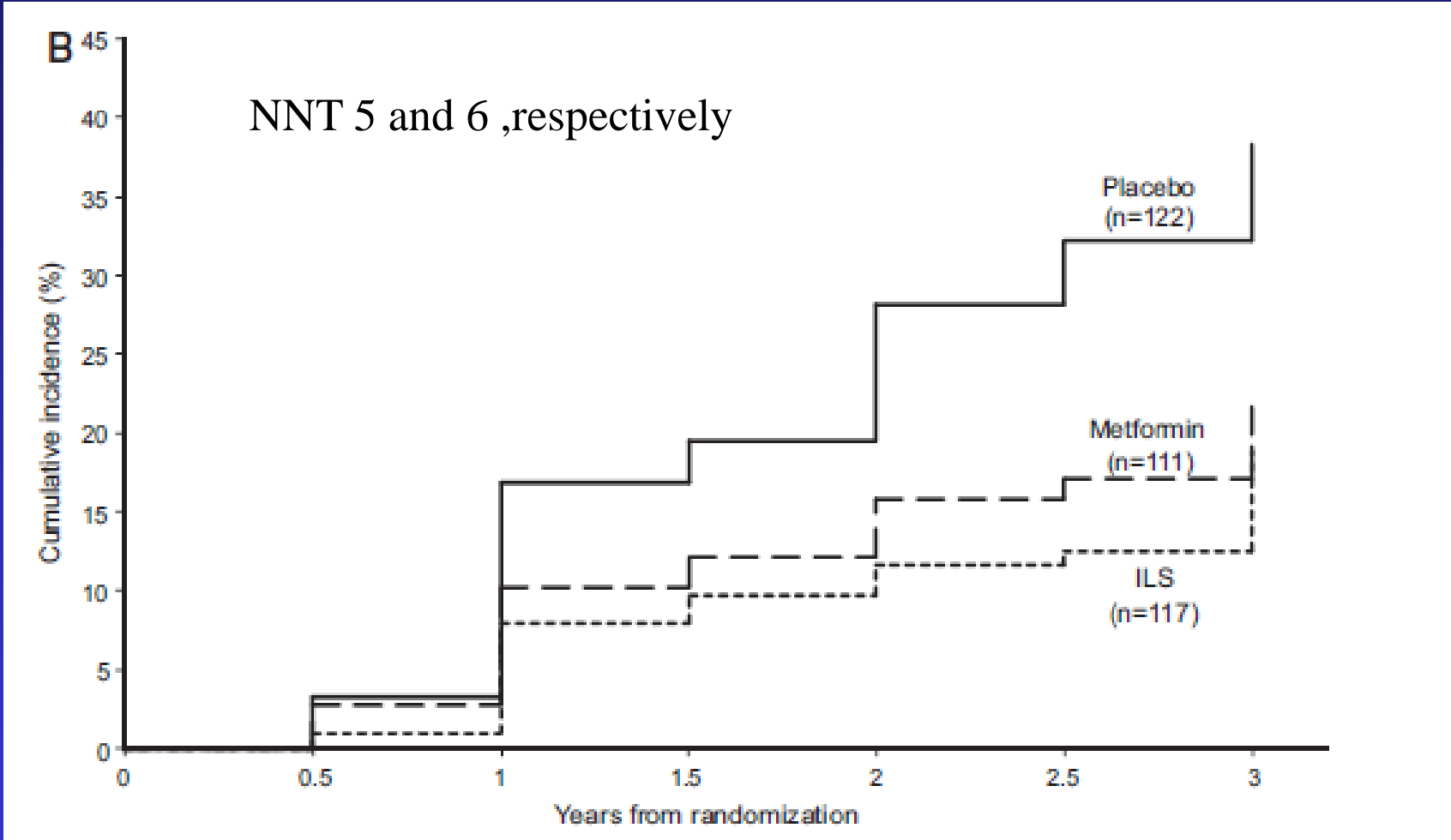
# Change diagnostic criteria for GDM?

## Arguments in favor

- ✓ - Previous oGTT thresholds were set in such a way that about 2.5% of population would classify as GDM, irrespective of relationship of glucose values with perinatal outcome
- Striking increase in obesity and type 2 diabetes in general population may well correspond to GDM incidence of about 20%
- Treatment of GDM improves perinatal outcome
- ✓ - Treatment of GDM is generally easy with insulin treatment in only 8-20% of women
- Adequate diagnosis is cost-effective



# Incidence of diabetes following GDM



# Post partum testing following GDM

- Systemic review; 54 articles
- Postpartum testing on average in 33% of patients (9-71%)
- With proactive patient contact programs: 60% (14-95%)

# Post partum testing following GDM

- Systemic review; 54 articles

- Postpartum testing of patients

**In other words, we do not seem ready for such an increase in GDM**

contact programs:

# Change diagnostic criteria for GDM?

## Arguments against

- oGTT has poor reproducibility
- Even with very strict threshold values, only a minority of fetal macrosomia will be identified
- GDM is related to childhood obesity, but mainly in case of maternal obesity
- Overdiagnosis of GDM may well result in overtreatment
- Stricter oGTT criteria will result in increasing workload

GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; oGTT, oral glucose tolerance test.

*Visser. Is evidence strong enough to change diagnostic criteria for gestational diabetes now? Am J Obstet Gynecol 2012.*

# Maternal overweight is the main problem and not GDM

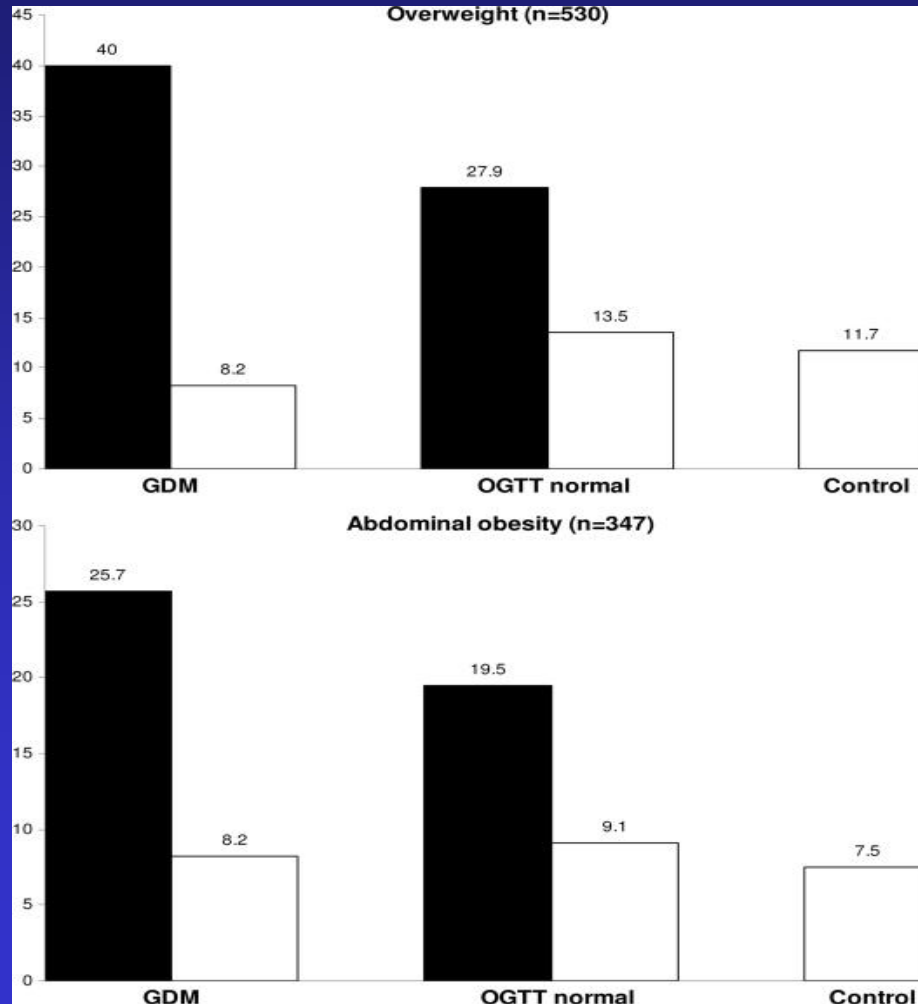
overweight and abdominal obesity in 16 y old adolescents

## Risk population:

-GDM 84

-Normal OGTT 657

Control 3.427



■ = mat BMI > 25

# Metabolic syndrome in 175 infants age 7-11, according to birth weight and GDM

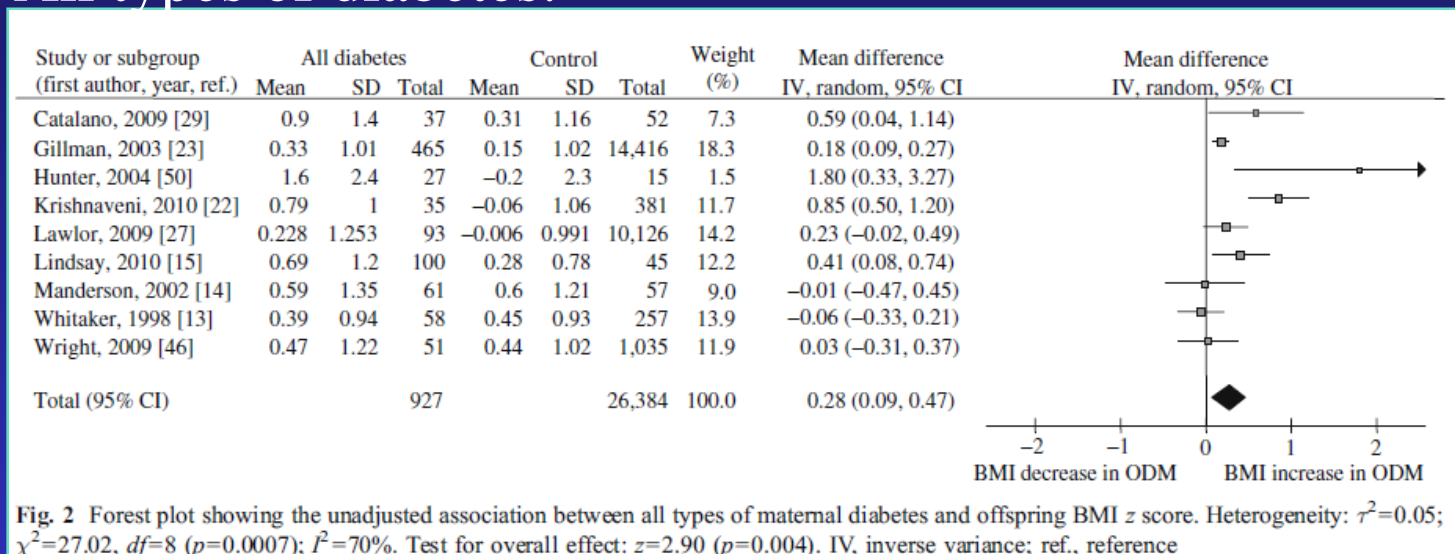
TABLE 4. Hazard Ratio for the Risk of MS ( $n = 175$ )

Variables	Hazard Ratio	<i>P</i> Value	95% CI for Hazard Ratio
LGA versus AGA	2.19	.006	1.25–3.82
Maternal obesity* versus nonobese	1.81	.039	1.03–3.19
GDM versus control	1.44	.191	0.83–2.50
Male versus female	1.52	.133	0.88–2.61

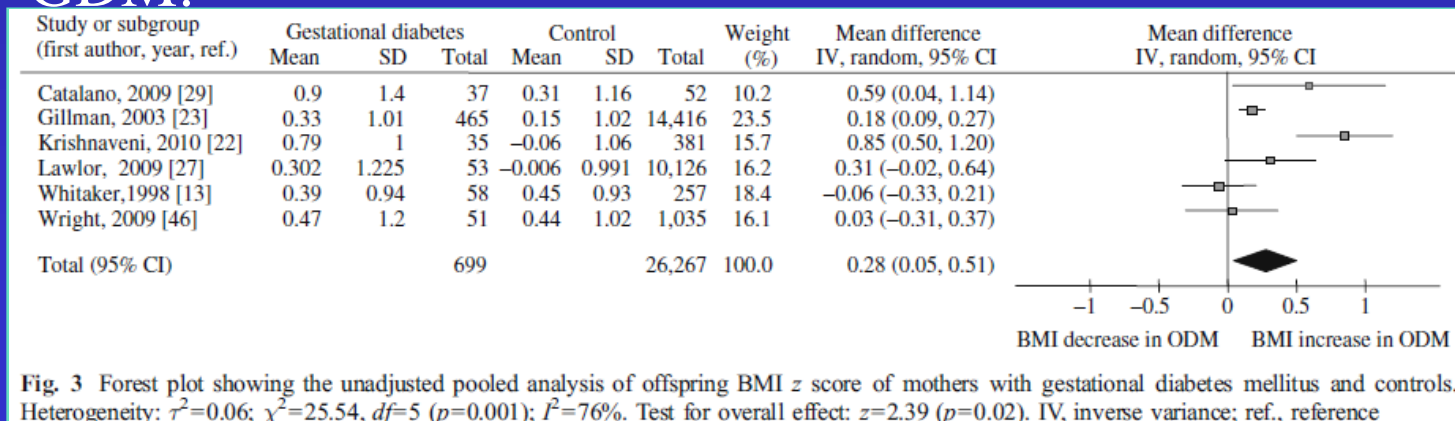
\* Prepregnancy BMI of  $>27.3$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

# Mat Diabetes and Childhood obesity meta-analysis, Philipps et al, Diabetologia 2011

All types of diabetes:



GDM:



# Mat Diabetes and Childhood obesity meta-analysis, Philipps et al, Diabetologia 2011

## Adjusted for maternal BMI:

All types of diabetes:

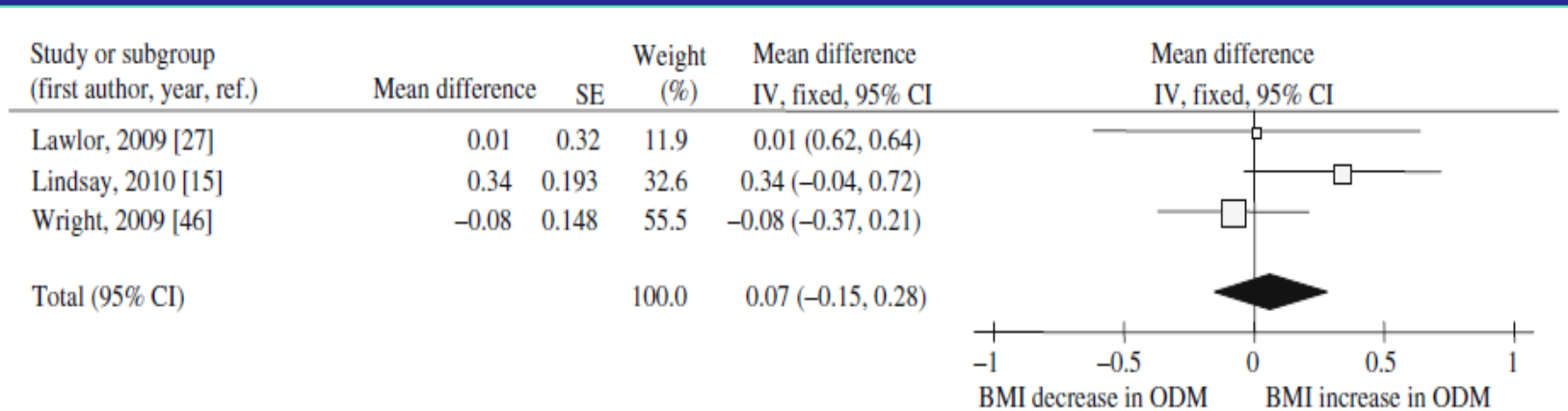


Fig. 5 Forest plot showing the adjusted association between all types of maternal diabetes and offspring BMI z score. Heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=3.02$ ,  $df=2$  ( $p=0.22$ );  $I^2=24\%$ . Test for overall effect:  $z=0.61$  ( $p=0.54$ ). IV, inverse variance; ref., reference



# Obesity and GDM; short term outcome

independent risk factors with synergistic effects

	Control	GDM	Obesity	GDM and Obesity
Birth weight>90 <sup>th</sup> centile	1	2.19	1.73	3.62
Cord C-peptide>90 <sup>th</sup> centile	1	2.49	1.77	3.61
Primary Caesarean section	1	1.25	1.51	1.71
Preeclampsia	1	1.74	3.91	5.98
Newborn % body fat>90 <sup>th</sup> centile	1	1.98	1.65	3.69
Shoulder dystocia/birth injury	1	1.14	1.03	1.8

# Obesity and GDM; long term outcome

- Obesity seems to have the most important effect on long term development of the offspring ( especially childhood obesity)

# Screening for gestational diabetes:

- Yes, the whole population; but that does not happen yet ! (Even in countries with 'universal' screening only 10-90% of women will actually be screened; Jiwani et al JMFNM 2012). **Priority!**
- Tell me how many GDM you want and I will give you the formula
- Use strict criteria in obese women. **Priority!**

# NIH Consensus Development Conference:

## DIAGNOSING GESTATIONAL DIABETES MELLITUS

March 4-6, 2013  
Bethesda, Maryland

- Evaluate to decrease subsequent signs of metabolic syndrome, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in women with GDM

- Too early to adopt the stringent IADPSG diagnostic thresholds associated with an adverse outcome of 2.0 in the HAPO study as opposed to 1.75
- Determine whether women, normal in a two step strategy and

# Use strict oGTT criteria in obese women

- Glucose values in obese women with a normal oGTT are higher than those in women with normal weight, and GDM is usually more severe
- Obesity by itself has a negative effect on outcome
- Obesity and GDM have a synergistic effect on outcome
- Diet, treatment and frequent visits may reduce weight gain, which by itself has a positive effect on outcome

# Normal 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester oGTT and big baby in 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester.....

- Low risk, no GDM?
- Might have late onset GDM and be at high risk

# Normal 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester oGTT and big baby in 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester.....

- Low risk, no GDM?
- Might have late onset GDM and be at high risk

So, repeat glucose testing !!

# Conclusions 1:

- Screen all pregnant women
- Preferably oGTT 24-28 wk
- Use strict threshold values in case of maternal obesity (IADPSG criteria)
- Less stringent criteria in the others
  
- PM: normal oGTT and fetal macrosomia near term ( continue thinking!!!)



## Conclusions 2:

- GDM is really a disease
- But, for the time being do not over-diagnose and medicalize
- Maternal obesity is a bigger problem
- If you have the money: use insulin and not oral antidiabetic medication



**Thank you**