Blood Glucose Levels of Sub-Elite Athletes during 6-days of Free Living

Felicity Thomas, BE(Hons)^{1,2}, Chris G. PRETTY, Ph.D.¹, Thomas DESAIVE, Ph.D.², J Geoffrey CHASE, Ph.D.¹

¹ Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

²GIGA – In Silico Medicine, University of Liege, Belgium

Felicity Thomas**
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
University of Canterbury,
Private Bag 4800,
Christchurch, 8140, New Zealand
felicity.thomas@pg.canterbury.ac.nz

Chris Pretty
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
University of Canterbury,
Private Bag 4800,
Christchurch, 8140, New Zealand
chris.pretty@canterbury.ac.nz

Thomas Desaive**
Institute of Physics
Allée du 6 Août, 17 (Bât B5)
B4000 Liège (Belgium)
tdesaive@ulg.ac.be

J. Geoffrey Chase
Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Canterbury
Private Bag 4800,
Christchurch, 8140, New Zealand
geoff.chase@canterbury.ac.nz

**corresponding author

Financial Support: This study was supported by an eTIME IRSES EU FP7 #318943 grant, University Canterbury Doctoral scholarship and the Sadie Balkind Scholarship,

Disclosures: None

Acknowledgements: None

Keywords: Continuous glucose monitoring, hyperglycaemia, athletes, exercise, fasting blood glucose, postprandial glucose

Figures and Table Count: 4 Figures, 3 Tables

Abbreviations: Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), Blood Glucose (BG), Type 2 diabetes (T2DM), World Health Organisation (WHO), American Diabetes Association (ADA), Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT), Percent Body Fat (PBF), Fat Free Mass (FFM), Fasting Blood Glucose (FBG), Fasting Plasma Insulin (FPI), Fasting Insulin Secretion (FIS), Time in Band (TIB), Post Prandial Glucose (PPG), Post Prandial Glucose (PPGR)

Abstract

Background:

Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices, with their 1-5min measurement interval, allow blood glucose concentration (BG) dynamics to be captured more frequently and less invasively than traditional BG measures. One cohort CGM could provide insight is athletes. This study investigates what impact their heightened energy expenditure and dietary intake may have on their ability to achieve optimal BG.

Methods:

Ten sub-elite athletes (resting HR<60bpm, training>6hrs per week) were recruited. Two Ipro2 CGM devices (Medtronic Minimed, Northridge, CA) were inserted into the abdomen and remained in place for ~6days. Time in band was calculated as the percentage of CGM BG measurements with in the 4.0 - 6.0mmol/L. Fasting glucose was calculated using CGM calibration BG measurements and postprandial glucose response was also calculated using the CGM values.

Results:

4/10 athletes studied spent more than 70% of the total monitoring time above 6.0mmol/L even with the 2hour period after meals is excluded. Fasting blood glucose was also in the ADA defined pre-diabetes range for 3/10 athletes. Only one participant spent substantial time below 4.0mmol/L which was largely due to significantly lower energy intake compared to recommendations.

Conclusions:

Contrary to expectations high BG appears to be more of a concern for athletes then low BG even in those with the highest energy expenditure and consuming below the recommended carbohydrate intake. This study warrants further investigation on the recommended diets and the BG of athletes to better determine the causes and impact of this hyperglycaemia on overall athlete health.

Introduction

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines normal glycaemia as fasting glucose less than 6.1mmol/L and recommends that glucose be <7.8mmol/L 2hours after a 75g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) test [1]. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) considers those with a fasting glucose of 5.6 – 6.9mmol/L and blood glucose (BG) > 7.8 -11.0mmol/L after an OGTT at increased risk of diabetes [2]. However, as the WHO guidelines explain, there is no definitive cut off for "normoglycaemia" [1].

Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) devices, with their 1-5 minute measurement interval, allow blood glucose concentration (BG) dynamics to be captured far more frequently and less invasively than traditional BG measures. CGM devices typically consist of a small pager-like monitoring device that receives a signal from a sensor inserted into the subcutaneous layer. The sensor creates a signal using the glucose oxidase reaction and produces a current proportional to the glucose concentration in the surrounding interstitial fluid. The signal is converted into a BG value by using calibration BG measurements, which are entered into the monitor by the user every ~6-8hrs.

These devices are primarily designed for use in individuals with type 1 and type 2 diabetes to aid BG regulation and are well studied in this cohort [3, 4]. However, because of the increased measurement frequency and reduced invasiveness they have recently been applied to other cohorts, such as intensive care patients and neonates, with varying success [5-12]. Another, perhaps overlooked, cohort where the more intensive metabolic monitoring provided by CGM may be beneficial is athletes.

Athletes are traditionally encouraged to consume a diet rich in carbohydrates to ensure adequate glycogen stores and improve performance [13-15]. Physical training is known to improve insulin sensitivity, both immediately post exercise and through multiple long term adaptations in glucose transport and metabolism [16]. However in contrast, strenuous exercise is known to increase circulating

concentrations of catecholamines, such as adrenalin and noradrenaline, to near pathological levels [17, 18] resulting in hyperglycaemia and hyperinsulinemia post intense exercise [17, 19, 20].

This study aims to use the CGM blood glucose profiles and dietary habits of sub-elite athletes to investigate if this cohort is achieving optimal blood glucose levels during normal free living and training. The CGM data provides a unique insight in to the day to day blood glucose levels of Athletes that could not be achieved without the application of this technology. In particular, it asks what impact their increased insulin sensitivity, heightened energy expenditure and increased exposure to stress hormones have on their blood glucose levels.

Methods

Ten fit, healthy sub-elite athletes (resting HR <60bpm) were recruited under informed written consent for a study into optimal athlete nutrition (henceforth referred to as *athletes*). Table 1 summarizes the cohort demographics. All subjects regularly trained > 6 hours per week in a range of endurance based sports, predominantly running and cycling. Participants were free living during the monitoring period and did not have tailored nutritional programs from this study or an existing coach. The research procedures and use of data were approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee.

Table 1. Cohort demographics of the participants. Data are presented as median [interquartile range] where appropriate

Number	10
Age (yr)	28 [23 37]
Gender (M/F)	7/3
BMI (kg/m²)	22 [21 24]
Resting HR (bpm)	55 [53 56]
VO2max (mL/kg/min)	46 [39 59]

Two Ipro2 and one Guardian Real-time CGM devices (Medtronic Minimed, Northridge, CA, USA) were inserted into the abdomen of each athlete ~24 hours prior to the first 'fasted exercise test'. The CGM device remained in each subject for 4 - 6 days. For all athletes, the Ipro CGM devices were both inserted in to the left side of the abdomen and the Guardian in the right side. These devices are referred to as sensor 1 (SG1), the lower left abdomen sensor, sensor 2 (SG2), the upper left abdomen sensor, and the real-time sensor in the right abdomen sensor (SGrealtime). Figure 1 shows these locations which are typical for these devices. The Guardian Real-time data was not used in this analysis. Two Ipro2 sensors were worn to provide redundancy in case of sensor failure, which is not immediately apparent with these retrospective devices.

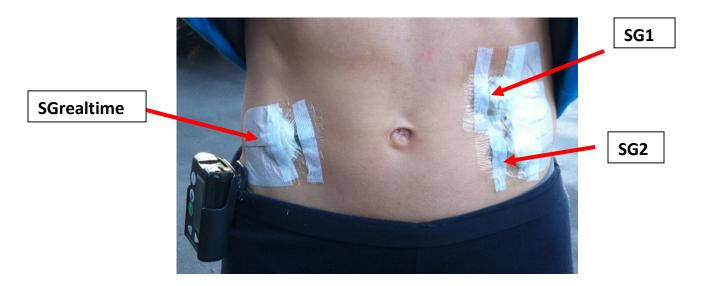


Figure 1: Photo showing the locations of each CGM devices

During the ~6 days of CGM per athlete:

- Blood glucose was measured 4 times per day prior to meals, thus including morning fasting, and sleeping. These measurements were used to calibrate the device (calibration BG)
- All meals and snacks were recorded (self-reporting) and carbohydrate, sugar, fibre, protein and fat intake was calculated
- Any exercise was also recorded (self-reporting) and energy expenditure estimated
- A fasted exercise test was carried out on Day 2, as shown in Figure 2.

Calibration BG measurements were taken using capillary finger stick measurements and the Abbott Optimum Xceed (Abbott Diabetes Care, Alameda, CA) glucometer. The Abbott device has reported error of 5-10% [9, 21-23]. A body composition analysis was undertaken by 8 of the 10 participants prior to the fasting test using a Body composition Analyser (InBody230, InBody Bldg, Seoul, Korea).

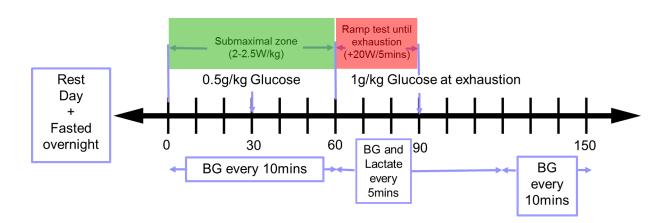


Figure 2: Schematic displaying experimental procedure for the fasted exercise test the participants undertook

Sensor glucose (SG) data from measured CGM traces of the two Ipro2 devices was analysed. These devices have shown to have very good accuracy and sensor agreement in active individuals [8, 24]. The two signals were averaged at each time step for the time period they were worn to provide a single, reliable trace of BG. For Ath04, Ath09, and Ath10 only one CGM trace was available due to sensor failure.

For each athlete, the cumulative distribution (CDF) of BG data was analysed for the entire 5-6 days of monitoring, and re-analysed with the 2 hour period following any meal or snack removed. Time in band was calculated as the percentage of SG with in the 4.0 - 6.0mmol/L during the two different monitoring periods. Although a consensus has yet to be reached on what normal glucose levels, intensive insulin therapy studies show achieving higher time in this band results in improved patient outcomes [25-27] and it lies below typical thresholds for diabetes diagnosis [1, 2]. Many studies have also demonstrated the linearly increasing risks associated with hyperglycaemia, regardless of diabetes status, with lower limits between 4.0 – 6.0mmol/L [1, 28-33].

The average carbohydrate, sugar, and fibre intake (g/day) while using CGM were calculated. First, daily caloric intake was calculated using basal metabolic rate (BMR) as estimated by the body composition analysis. For 2/10 athletes, Ath02 and Ath03, body composition analysis results were not available. Therefore, BMR was estimated using the standard equations [34] that take in to account height, weight and age. This BMR was then multiplied by an activity factor [35] considering the amount of exercise undertaken by the athlete during the monitoring period. This process and relating caloric requirements are shown in Table 2.

US dietary guidelines [36] recommend 45-65% of total calorie intake be from carbohydrates and the recommended amount of added sugars is also related to calorie level in these guidelines. Added sugar content of food consumed during the monitoring period was calculated using the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA) database [37]. If the added sugar content was not available from the database it was assumed to be zero, providing an overall conservative estimate.

Table 2: The process of calculating the caloric requirements based on BMR and activity level and the average calorie intake achieved by each subject. * Values were calculated using standard equations rather than a body composition analysis.

Subject	BMR (kcal)	Average Exercise (min/day)	Activity Factor	Calories Required (kcal/d)	Average Calorie Intake per Day (kcal/d)
ATH01	1342	84	1.9	2550	2147
ATH02	1868*	41	1.7	3176	3864
ATH03	1927*	68	1.9	3661	1877
ATH04	1770	93	2.1	3717	3555
ATH05	1680	158	2.3	3864	2568
ATH06	1694	28	1.5	2541	2654
ATH07	1780	20	1.5	2670	2838
ATH08	1895	24	1.5	2843	4144
ATH09	1379	102	2.1	2896	2726
ATH10	1400	42	1.7	2380	2363

Fasting blood glucose (FBG) was calculated as the median value of the calibration measurements taken prior to breakfast over the 5-6days of CGM monitoring. Fasting plasma insulin (FPI) was determined by the first plasma insulin measurement taken prior to starting the fasted exercise test on Day 2 (Figure 2). Fasting insulin secretion (FIS) was calculated from the initial C-peptide measurement taken prior to starting the fasted exercise test using the method of Van Cauter et al. [38] assuming steady-state, as subjects were fasted.

Postprandial glucose response (PPGR) was calculated as the incremental area under the BG curve after a meal [39]. Only the area above the starting glucose value was considered. PPGR was only considered for meals that had greater than 30g of carbohydrate, and where there was no meal of greater than 15g carbohydrate in the 2 hours prior to or after this meal. If meals were consumed within 15 minutes then carbohydrate content was combined and the 2 hour area under the curve considered from the start of

the second meal. Postprandial glucose (PPG) was the glucose value recorded two hours after a meal under the same conditions as above.

Results

Individual SG profiles are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. These profile highlight the very unique response of each individual to exercise and carbohydrates. Ath02 and Ath04 both show very little variation in SG but Ath02 SG is centred on a higher glucose value resulting in more time out of the 4.0-6.0mmol/L. Other subjects such as Ath03 and Ath09 show a large variation in SG, once again centred on different glucose levels resulting in Ath03 displaying the most hypoglycaemia and Ath09 displaying the most hyperglycaemia. Also individual plots for each SG profile can be found in the supplementary material accompanying this article. These plots show both SG profiles and the resulting averaged SG.

In Figure 5 it is further evident participants spend a significant amount of time outside the normoglycemic 4.0 - 6.0mmol/L range. Once meals are removed, in the bottom plot, there is a distinct separation between 4/10 of the subjects (Ath05, 07, 08, 09) who have less than 30% time in the 4.0 - 6.0mmol/L. In contrast, the remaining 6/10 participants achieve over 85% time in the desired 4.0 - 6.0mmol/L range, which is clear when comparing the distributions.

All but 4 participants consumed on average an amount of carbohydrate that was between 45 – 65% of their recommended daily calorie intake. Ath03, Ath05 and Ath09 did not reach the minimum recommended amount of carbohydrate. Ath08 consumed more than 65% of their recommended intake as carbohydrate. All participants achieved their recommended fibre intake of >25g. Some participants, such as Ath07 and Ath08, have a very low fibre to sugar ratio and nearly double the recommended intake of added sugars (Figure 6). Ath03 consumed on average ~150g of carbohydrate less than the lower

recommended limit, 1770 kcal less than required (Table 2) and was the only participant to demonstrate a significant amount time below 4.0mmol/L.

Table 3 shows Ath05, Ath07 and Ath09 have elevated fasting glucose within the pre-diabetes range 5.6 - 6.9 mmol/L suggested by the ADA. However, none of the subjects met the pre-diabetes criteria of PPG > 7.8mmol/L. Although this criteria is based on the BG 2 hours after a 75g glucose tolerance test rather than after an uncontrolled meal. The mean PPGR ranges from 0.2 – 2.0 mmol/L.hr displaying a wide range intra and inter of carbohydrate sensitivity. High PPGR did not necessarily correlate with time out side of the 4.0 – 6.0mmol/L band.

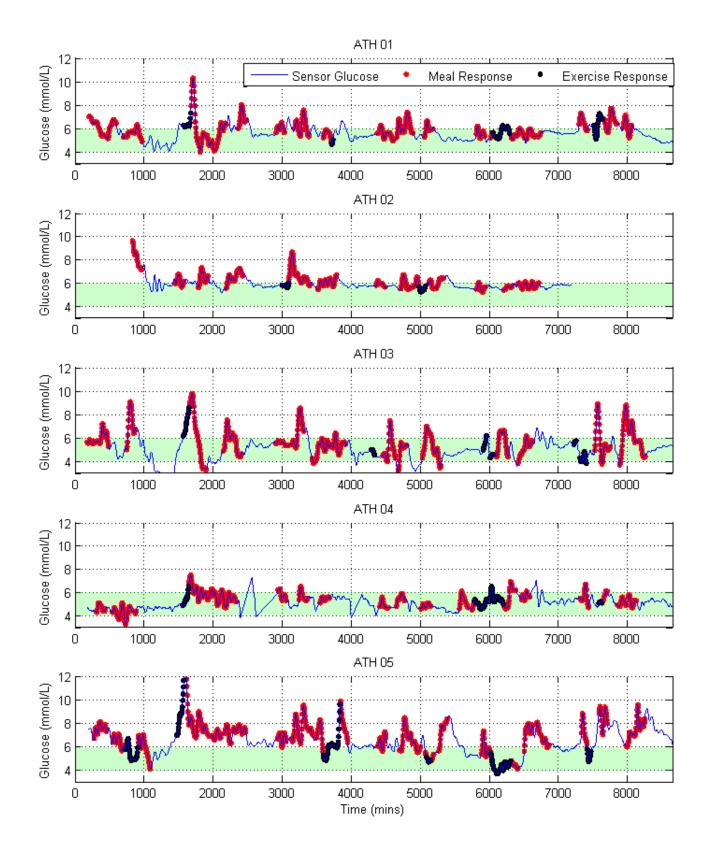


Figure 3: CGM profiles for the first 5 subjects. The 2 hour postprandial meal response is highlighted in red and periods of exercise are highlighted in black.

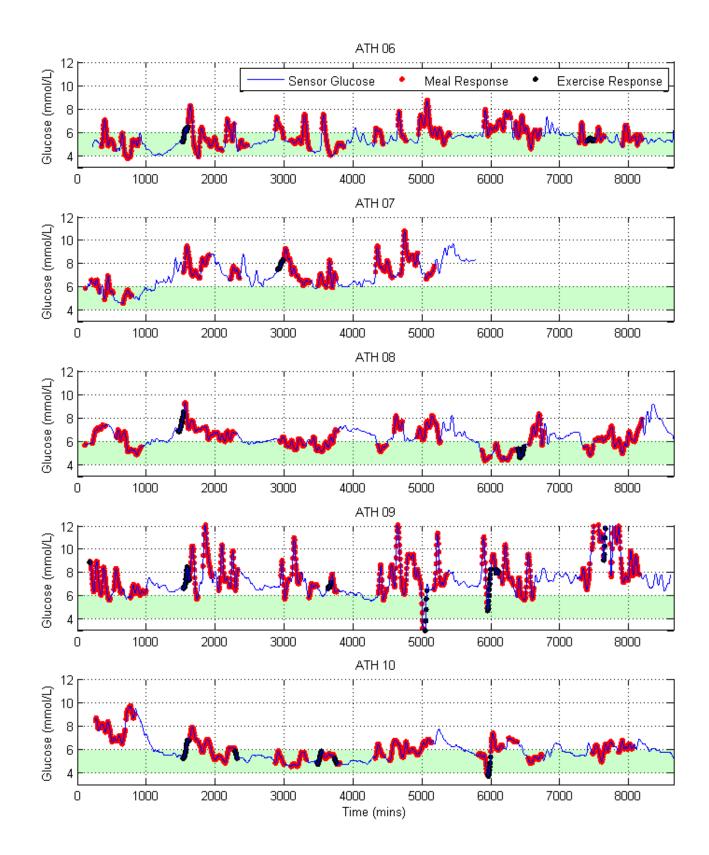
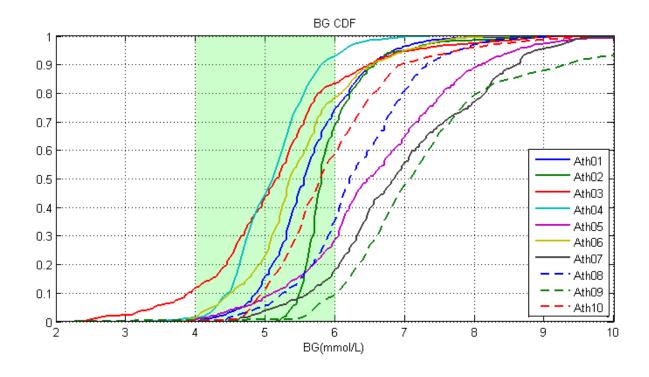


Figure 4: CGM profiles for the last 5 subjects. The 2 hour postprandial meal response is highlighted in red and periods of exercise are highlighted in black.



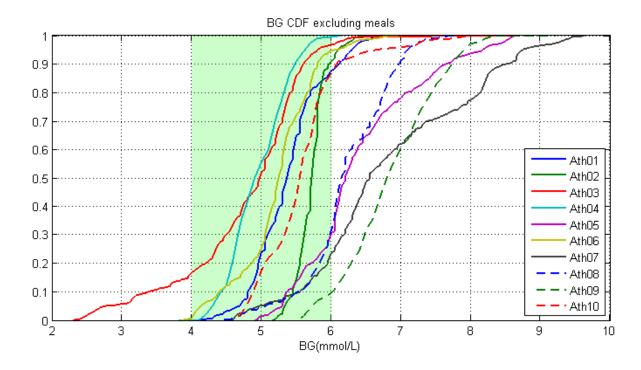


Figure 5: Cumulative distribution plots of measured CGM values. The Top plot is the CDF of the entire averaged CGM signal. The bottom plot is the CGM signal with 2 hours from the beginning of each meal and snack removed. The green band represents the normal range.

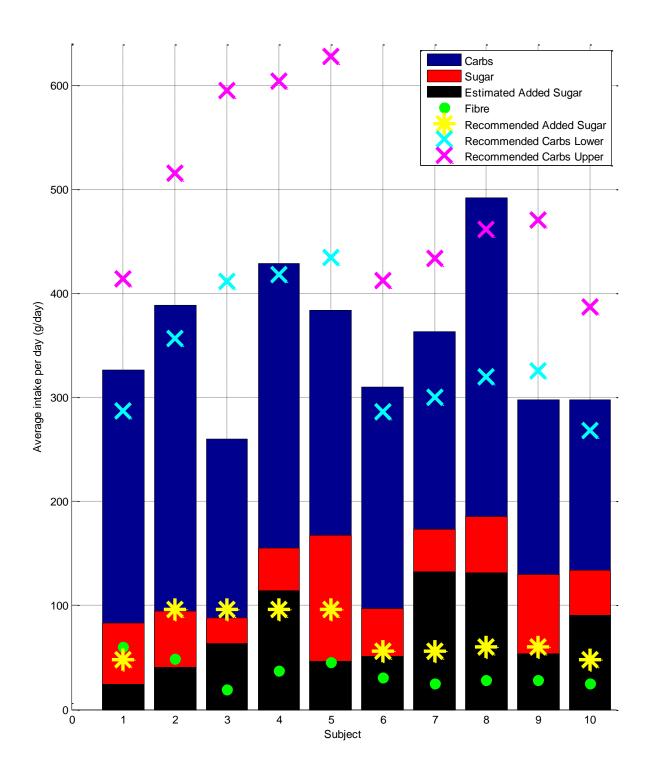


Figure 6: Bar plot showing the average intake per day of carbohydrate, sugar, fibre, and the recommended daily intake of carbohydrate, upper (65% of calorie intake) and lower (45% of calorie intake)

Table 3: Summary table of measured physical and metabolic variables, where PBF = Percent Body Fat, FFM = Fat Free Mass, FBG = Fasting Blood Glucose, FPI = Fasting Plasma Insulin, FIS = Fasting Insulin Secretion, TIB -MR = Time in Band, with meals removed, Max_{ppg} = the maximum blood glucose value reached after a meal, PPG = the blood glucose value 2 hours after a meal. Body composition analysis results were not available for Ath02 and Ath03 hence PBF and FFM values are missing.

Subject	Sex	Age	вмі	PBF (%)	FFM (kg)	FBG (mmol/L)	FPI (mU/L)	FIS (mU/L.min)	TIB- MR (%)	Mean PPGR (mmol/L.hr)	Mean PPG (mmol/L)	Exercise (min/day)	VO2max (mL/kg/min)
ATH01	F	23	21.6	25.3	45	5.2	9.0	1319	86.6	1.1	6.1	84	39
ATH02	М	23	21.9	-	-	5.1	6.3	913	90.7	0.5	6.0	41	60
ATH03	М	50	26.4	-	-	4.7	11.8	1878	76.1	1.9	6.0	68	39
ATH04	М	23	20.4	5.1	64.8	4.6	6.5	832	99.2	0.5	5.5	93	67
ATH05	М	28	24.2	14.1	60.6	6.0	6.3	820	30.7	0.9	6.8	158	59
ATH06	М	36	22.4	15.5	63.3	4.4	8.3	1844	94.3	1.2	5.9	28	59
ATH07	М	37	26.0	19.7	65.3	6.7	10.5	1553	23.9	1.1	7.1	20	42
ATH08	М	22	24.5	13.2	70.6	5.5	11.0	1550	31.7	0.2	5.5	24	37
ATH09	F	37	21.1	17.8	46.7	6.0	6.0	936	9.7	2.0	7.4	102	47
ATH10	F	27	22.2	28.3	47.7	5.2	9.5	1344	86.6	1.0	6.7	42	44

Discussion

Physical training is known to improve insulin sensitivity, both immediately post exercise (up to 2 hrs) and through multiple adaptations in glucose transport and metabolism [16]. Therefore, it could be expected high BG would not be frequently seen in athletes and low BG would be of greater concern due to increased energy expenditure. However, this hypothesis does not appear to be the case in the data we have collected.

In particular, 4/10 subjects spent more than ~70% of the total monitoring period with SG > 6.0mmol/L even with the two hour period after meals removed. Only one athlete experienced a significant time below 4.0mmol/L and this behaviour appears largely due to a considerably decreased calorie intake compared to recommended guidelines.

Ath09 and Ath05 undertook the most exercise during the monitoring period, averaging 102 and 158min/day respectively. This high training load could have contributed to the low time in the 4.0 – 6.0mmol/L band, as exercise is known to increase blood glucose and induce hyperglycaemia and hyperinsulinemia as a result of this catecholamine response [17, 19, 20]. Both subjects have the lowest fasting plasma insulin and insulin secretion recorded suggesting efficient glucose uptake. In addition, both achieved VO2max values that put them in the *excellent* category based on their gender and age.

Ath07 and Ath08 carried out the least amount of exercise during the monitoring period only averaging 20 and 24min/day of exercise, while over consuming added sugars [1] and Ath08 over consuming on the recommended carbohydrate intake. Lowering physical activity is known to impact the glycaemic control of healthy individuals and the increased insulin sensitivity witnessed due to training wanes with 5 days of detraining [16, 40-42]. The large amount of time spent out of band by Ath07 and Ath08 is likely to be attributed to these diet and lifestyle choices. This conclusion is supported by Ath07 and Ath08 showing

the highest fasting plasma insulin levels and fasting insulin secretion and only achieving *average* or *above average* category VO2max levels based on gender and age.

An individual's tolerance of carbohydrate is highly variable and is related to a number of factors including age and genetics [43, 44]. A differing ability to tolerate carbohydrates in this cohort is demonstrated with the wide range of cohort values of mean PPGR and mean PPG, 0.2 – 2.0mmol/L.h and 5.5 – 7.4mmol/L respectively. Also PPGR and PPG do not necessarily correlate with time in band or FBG. A subject can achieve good overall control or even experience low BG, such as Ath03, but still demonstrate a high mean PPGR indicating a high sensitivity to carbohydrates. A subject like ATH09 also appears to have a very high sensitivity to carbohydrates achieving high PPGR and low time in band while under consuming on the recommended carbohydrate intake. However, a subject like Ath04 displays a very high tolerance of carbohydrates, achieving the greatest time in band and very low PPGR, while still over consuming added-sugars. It is interesting to note that normalising results by grams of carbohydrate consumed did not change the trends seen.

Athletes are traditionally encouraged to consume high carbohydrate diets to replenish muscle glycogen stores and improve performance, with a particular focus on post exercise carbohydrate consumption [13-15]. However, this advice may be negatively impacting the blood sugar levels of athletes predisposed to have a low tolerance of carbohydrates. In addition it is unlikely that low BG in day to day life is a real concern for athletes, unless they are significantly under consuming calories. Hence, the potential for a more personalised nutrition plan aided by CGM to optimise the BG levels during different phases of athletes training is highlighted by these results.

This study warrants further investigation on the recommend diets and the blood glucose levels of athletes, in particular those in the sub-elite category studied here. Sub-elite athletes are unlikely to have the same

nutritional and dietary support from trained professionals as elite athletes. Hence, their nutritional intakes are more perhaps likely to be sub-optimal, as demonstrated in this study.

Limitations

This study is limited by the small cohort size. However, this initial pilot investigation has highlighted some interesting points where there is potential to optimise an athlete's diet. Hence, it has raised questions where further studies are thus justified.

A second limitation is that activity was only monitored by self-reporting in future studies it would be much better to use a specific activity monitoring device to capture energy expenditure more accurately. Equally, activity could be directly controlled in a more homogenous cohort, in a more strictly controlled study than this pilot investigation.

Conclusion

Physical training is known to significantly increase insulin sensitivity and improve PPG and PPGR. Therefore, it could be expected sustained high BG during free living would not be frequently seen in athletes and low BG would be of greater concern due to increased energy expenditure. However, this hypothesis does not appear to be the case in the data we have collected. When the sensor glucose profiles of 10 trained, sub-elite athletes were analysed over a 6 day monitoring period 4/10 athletes studied spent more than 70% of the total monitoring time above 6mmol/L even with the 2hour period after meals removed. FBG was also in the range of pre-diabetes for 3/10 athletes as defined by the ADA. Only one participant spent substantial time below 4mmol/L and this was largely due to a significantly lower overall calorie intake compared to recommendations. A differing ability to tolerate carbohydrates in this cohort

is demonstrated with the wide range of cohort values of mean PPGR and mean PPG, 0.2 – 2.0mmol/L.h and 5.5 – 7.4mmol/L respectively. Therefore, a diet rich in carbohydrates may not be beneficial in some athletes, especially as low BG is unlikely to be of concern to an athlete consuming adequate calorie intake. This study provides a unique insight in to the day to day glucose levels of athletes that could only be achieved through the use of CGM devices highlighting the need for further investigation on the recommend diets of athletes to better determine the causes and impact of the hyperglycaemia seen on health and performance.

References

- 1. Organisation, W.H., *Definition and Diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus and Intermediate Hyperglycemia*. 2006, Geneva: World Health Organization. p. 1-46.
- 2. American Diabetes, A., *Diagnosis and classification of diabetes mellitus.* Diabetes Care, 2010. **33 Suppl 1**: p. S62-9.
- 3. Gandhi, G.Y., et al., *Efficacy of continuous glucose monitoring in improving glycemic control and reducing hypoglycemia: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials.* J Diabetes Sci Technol, 2011. **5**(4): p. 952-65.
- 4. Hoeks, L.B., W.L. Greven, and H.W. de Valk, *Real-time continuous glucose monitoring system for treatment of diabetes: a systematic review.* Diabet Med, 2011. **28**(4): p. 386-94.
- 5. Chee, F., T. Fernando, and P.V. van Heerden, *Closed-loop glucose control in critically ill patients using continuous glucose monitoring system (CGMS) in real time.* IEEE Trans Inf Technol Biomed, 2003. **7**(1): p. 43-53.
- 6. Holzinger, U., et al., *Real-time continuous glucose monitoring in critically ill patients: a prospective randomized trial.* Diabetes Care, 2010. **33**(3): p. 467-72.
- 7. Brunner, R., et al., *Accuracy and reliability of a subcutaneous continuous glucose-monitoring system in critically ill patients.* Critical Care Medicine, 2011. **39**(4): p. 659-664.
- 8. Thomas, F., et al., *Accuracy and Performance of Continuous Glucose Monitors in Athletes.* IFAC-PapersOnLine, 2015. **48**(20): p. 1-6.
- 9. Signal, M., *Continuous Glucose Monitoring and Tight Glycaemic Control in Critically III Patients* in *Bioengineering* 2013, University of Canterbury University of Canterbury.
- 10. Signal, M., et al., *Continuous glucose monitors and the burden of tight glycemic control in critical care: can they cure the time cost?* J Diabetes Sci Technol, 2010. **4**(3): p. 625-35.
- 11. Beardsall, K., et al., *The continuous glucose monitoring sensor in neonatal intensive care.* Archives of Disease in Childhood-Fetal and Neonatal Edition, 2005. **90**(4): p. F307-F310.
- 12. Harris, D.L., et al., *Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Newborn Babies at Risk of Hypoglycemia*. Journal of Pediatrics, 2010. **157**(2): p. 198-202.
- 13. IOC, *Nutrition for Athletes*. 2010, International Olympic Committee. p. 1-66.
- 14. Position of the American Dietetic Association, Dietitians of Canada, and the American College of Sports Medicine: Nutrition and athletic performance. J Am Diet Assoc, 2000. **100**(12): p. 1543-56.
- 15. Jacobs, K.A. and W.M. Sherman, *The efficacy of carbohydrate supplementation and chronic high-carbohydrate diets for improving endurance performance.* Int J Sport Nutr, 1999. **9**(1): p. 92-115.
- 16. Borghouts, L.B. and H.A. Keizer, *Exercise and insulin sensitivity: a review.* Int J Sports Med, 2000. **21**(1): p. 1-12.
- 17. Bloom, S.R., et al., *Differences in the metabolic and hormonal response to exercise between racing cyclists and untrained individuals.* J Physiol, 1976. **258**(1): p. 1-18.
- 18. Rehrer, N.J., et al., *Physiological changes and gastro-intestinal symptoms as a result of ultra-endurance running.* Eur J Appl Physiol Occup Physiol, 1992. **64**(1): p. 1-8.
- 19. Ivy, J.L., et al., *Muscle glycogen synthesis after exercise: effect of time of carbohydrate ingestion.*J Appl Physiol (1985), 1988. **64**(4): p. 1480-5.
- 20. Marliss, E.B. and M. Vranic, *Intense exercise has unique effects on both insulin release and its roles in glucoregulation: implications for diabetes.* Diabetes, 2002. **51 Suppl 1**: p. S271-283.
- 21. Abbott, Abbott Optium Test-Strip Packet Insert. 2010, Abbott Diabetes Care Ltd UK
- 22. Brunner, R., et al., Accuracy and reliability of a subcutaneous continuous glucose-monitoring system in critically ill patients*. Critical care medicine, 2011. **39**(4): p. 659-664.

- Thomas, F., et al., *Glucometer Performance in the Intensive Care Unit*, in 14th Annual Diabetes Technology Meeting (DTM). 2014: Bethesda, MD.
- 24. Bailey, T.S., et al., *Accuracy and acceptability of the 6-day Enlite continuous subcutaneous glucose sensor.* Diabetes Technol Ther, 2014. **16**(5): p. 277-83.
- 25. Krinsley, J.S., *Effect of an intensive glucose management protocol on the mortality of critically ill adult patients*. Mayo Clin Proc, 2004. **79**(8): p. 992-1000.
- 26. Chase, J.G., et al., *Implementation and evaluation of the SPRINT protocol for tight glycaemic control in critically ill patients: a clinical practice change.* Crit Care, 2008. **12**(2): p. R49.
- 27. Van den Berghe, G., et al., *Intensive insulin therapy in the critically ill patients.* N Engl J Med, 2001. **345**(19): p. 1359-1367.
- 28. Brunner, E.J., et al., *Relation between blood glucose and coronary mortality over 33 years in the Whitehall Study.* Diabetes Care, 2006. **29**(1): p. 26-31.
- 29. Jee, S.H., et al., Fasting serum glucose level and cancer risk in Korean men and women. JAMA, 2005. **293**(2): p. 194-202.
- 30. Kijak, E., G. Foust, and R. Steinman, *Relationship of blood sugar level and leukocytic phagocytosis*. South Calif Dent Assn, 1964. **32**: p. 349-351.
- 31. Levitan, E.B., et al., *Is nondiabetic hyperglycemia a risk factor for cardiovascular disease? A meta-analysis of prospective studies*. Arch Intern Med, 2004. **164**(19): p. 2147-55.
- 32. Nishida, T., et al., *Oral glucose tolerance test predicts prognosis of patients with liver cirrhosis.* Am J Gastroenterol, 2006. **101**(1): p. 70-5.
- 33. Tirosh, A., et al., *Normal fasting plasma glucose levels and type 2 diabetes in young men.* N Engl J Med, 2005. **353**(14): p. 1454-62.
- 34. Harris, J.A. and F.G. Benedict, *A biometric study of human basal metabolism*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 1918. **4**(12): p. 370-373.
- 35. Black, A.E., *Critical evaluation of energy intake using the Goldberg cut-off for energy intake:* basal metabolic rate. A practical guide to its calculation, use and limitations. International Journal of Obesity & Related Metabolic Disorders, 2000. **24**(9).
- 36. USDA, *Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee*. 2015, United States Department of Agriculture. p. 1-571.
- 37. USDA, Food-A-Pedia. 2015, United States Department of Agriculture.
- 38. Van Cauter, E., et al., *Estimation of insulin secretion rates from C-peptide levels. Comparison of individual and standard kinetic parameters for C-peptide clearance.* Diabetes, 1992. **41**(3): p. 368-77.
- 39. Wolever, T.M. and D.J. Jenkins, *The use of the glycemic index in predicting the blood glucose response to mixed meals.* Am J Clin Nutr, 1986. **43**(1): p. 167-72.
- 40. Mikus, C.R., et al., Lowering physical activity impairs glycemic control in healthy volunteers. Med Sci Sports Exerc, 2012. **44**(2): p. 225-31.
- 41. Heath, G., et al., *Effects of exercise and lack of exercise on glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity.* Journal of Applied Physiology, 1983. **55**(2): p. 512-517.
- 42. Mikines, K.J., et al., *Effects of training and detraining on dose-response relationship between glucose and insulin secretion*. American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology And Metabolism, 1989. **256**(5): p. E588-E596.
- 43. Zeevi, D., et al., *Personalized Nutrition by Prediction of Glycemic Responses*. Cell, 2015. **163**(5): p. 1079-94.
- 44. Vrolix, R. and R.P. Mensink, *Variability of the glycemic response to single food products in healthy subjects.* Contemp Clin Trials, 2010. **31**(1): p. 5-11.

Table 4. Cohort demographics of the participants. Data are presented as median [interquartile range] where appropriate

Number	10
Age (yr)	28 [23 37]
Gender (M/F)	7/3
BMI (kg/m²)	22 [21 24]
Resting HR (bpm)	55 [53 56]
VO2max (mL/kg/min)	46 [39 59]

Table 5: The process of calculating the caloric requirements based on BMR and activity level and the average calorie intake achieved by each subject. * Values were calculated using standard equations rather than a body composition analysis.

Subject	BMR (kcal)	Average Exercise (min/day)	Activity Factor	Calories Required (kcal/d)	Average Calorie Intake per Day (kcal/d)
ATH01	1342	84	1.9	2550	2147
ATH02	1868*	41	1.7	3176	3864
ATH03	1927*	68	1.9	3661	1877
ATH04	1770	93	2.1	3717	3555
ATH05	1680	158	2.3	3864	2568
ATH06	1694	28	1.5	2541	2654
ATH07	1780	20	1.5	2670	2838
ATH08	1895	24	1.5	2843	4144
ATH09	1379	102	2.1	2896	2726
ATH10	1400	42	1.7	2380	2363

Table 6: Summary table of measured physical and metabolic variables, where PBF = Percent Body Fat, FFM = FatFree Mass, FBG = Fasting Blood Glucose, FPI = Fasting Plasma Insulin, FIS = Fasting Insulin Secretion, TIB -MR = Time in Band, with meals removed, Max_{ppg} = the maximum blood glucose value reached after a meal, PPG = the blood glucose value 2 hours after a meal. Body composition analysis results were not available for Ath02 and Ath03 hence PBF and FFM values are missing.

Subject	Sex	Age	вмі	PBF (%)	FFM (kg)	FBG (mmol/L)	FPI (mU/L)	FIS (mU/L.min)	TIB- MR (%)	Mean PPGR (mmol/L.hr)	Mean PPG (mmol/L)	Exercise (min/day)	VO2max (mL/kg/min)
ATH01	F	23	21.6	25.3	45	5.2	9.0	1319	86.6	1.1	6.1	84	39
ATH02	М	23	21.9			5.1	6.3	913	90.7	0.5	6.0	41	60
ATH03	М	50	26.4			4.7	11.8	1878	76.1	1.9	6.0	68	39
ATH04	М	23	20.4	5.1	64.8	4.6	6.5	832	99.2	0.5	5.5	93	67
ATH05	М	28	24.2	14.1	60.6	6.0	6.3	820	30.7	0.9	6.8	158	59
ATH06	М	36	22.4	15.5	63.3	4.4	8.3	1844	94.3	1.2	5.9	28	59
ATH07	М	37	26.0	19.7	65.3	6.7	10.5	1553	23.9	1.1	7.1	20	42
ATH08	М	22	24.5	13.2	70.6	5.5	11.0	1550	31.7	0.2	5.5	24	37
ATH09	F	37	21.1	17.8	46.7	6.0	6.0	936	9.7	2.0	7.4	102	47
ATH10	F	27	22.2	28.3	47.7	5.2	9.5	1344	86.6	1.0	6.7	42	44

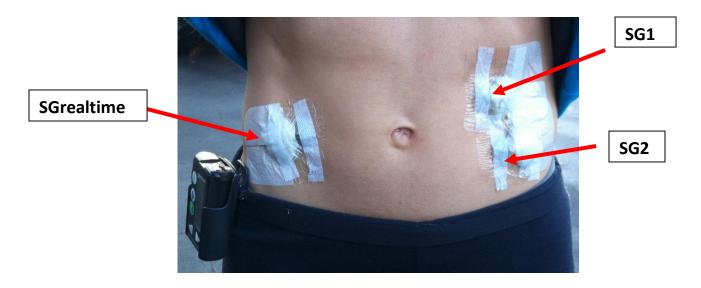


Figure 1: Photo showing the locations of each CGM devices

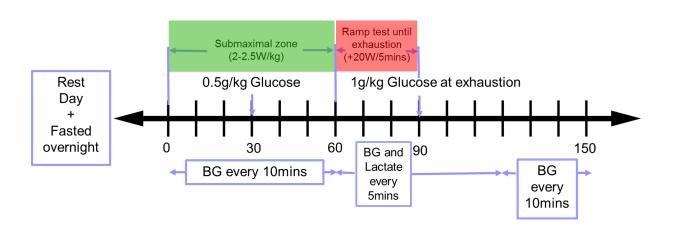


Figure 2: Schematic displaying experimental procedure for the fasted exercise test the participants undertook

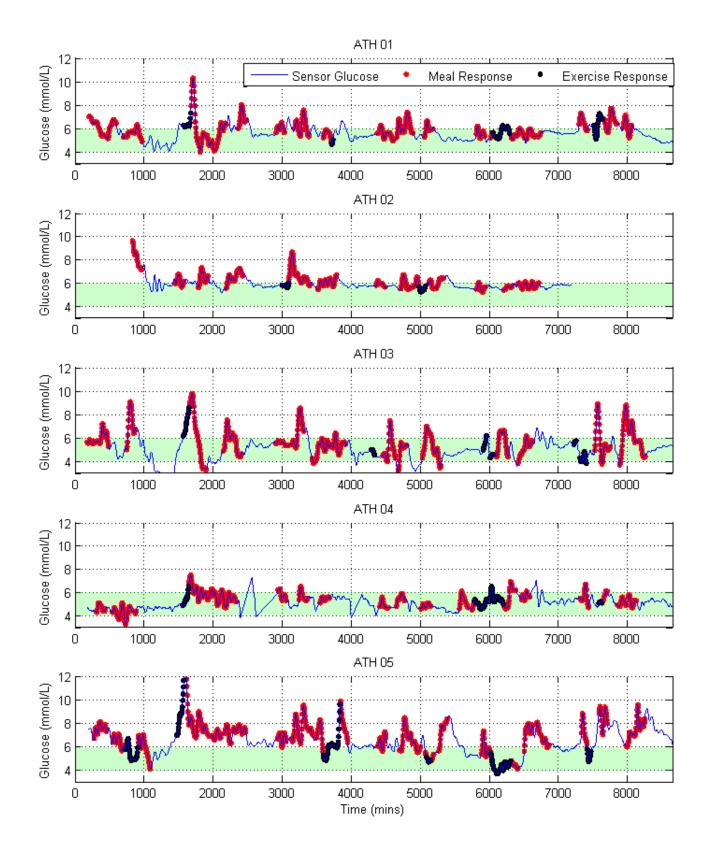


Figure 3: CGM profiles for the first 5 subjects. The 2 hour postprandial meal response is highlighted in red and periods of exercise are highlighted in black.

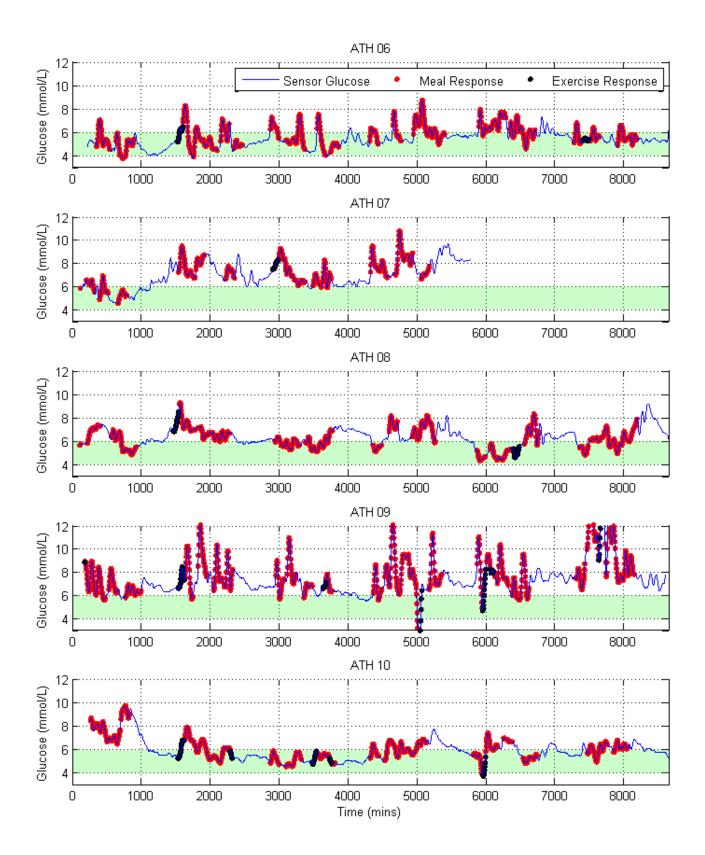
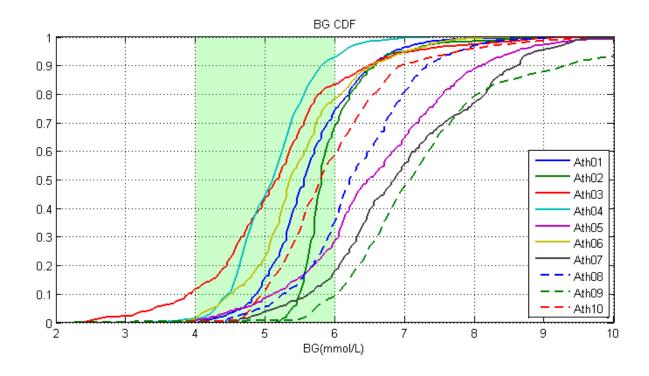


Figure 4: CGM profiles for the last 5 subjects. The 2 hour postprandial meal response is highlighted in red and periods of exercise are highlighted in black.



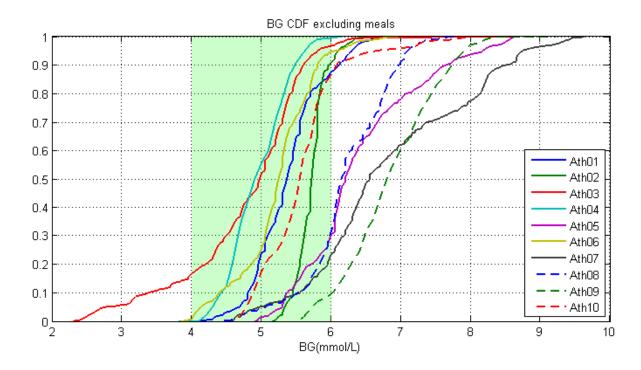


Figure 5: Cumulative distribution plots of measured CGM values. The Top plot is the CDF of the entire averaged CGM signal. The bottom plot is the CGM signal with 2 hour from the beginning of each meal and snack removed. The green band represents the normal range.

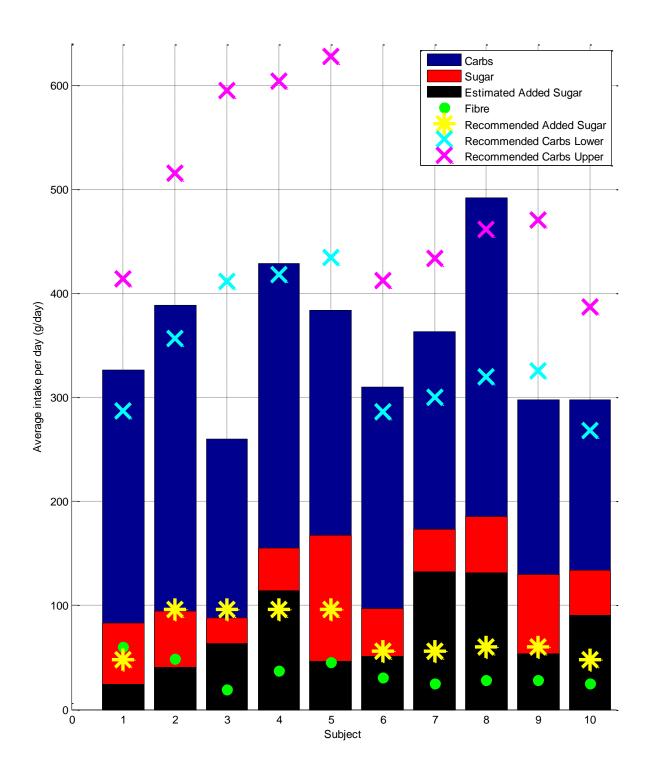


Figure 6: Bar plot showing the average intake per day of carbohydrate, sugar, fibre, and the recommended daily intake of carbohydrate, upper (65% of calorie intake) and lower (45% of calorie intake)