Associate Editor's Comments:  
Both reviewers requested dexamethasone measurements and reference to human pharmacology. Ideally these studies might be performed on leftover serum from animals used in these studies. If none is available, measurements on comparably treated animals is acceptable or historical data but only if measured in your laboratory. I note that steroid hormone measurements, including synthetic dexamethasone, must conform to journal policies.  
  
Reviewer Comments:  
Reviewer 1: This is a solid study reporting on the combination of obesity and chronically elevated glucocorticoids leading to exacerbations in metabolic function. I feel this work is potentially worthy of publication with the inclusion of the following data:  
  
⎝ In order to confidently draw comparisons between the DEX-treated chow-fed versus high-fat fed groups, it is important to demonstrate that the method of DEX administration (via the drinking water) results in comparable elevations in serum DEX. There is a possibility that the exacerbated metabolic function observed in the high-fat fed mice was simply due to increased consumption of the DEX-treated drinking water in these animals. As such, a measurement of serum DEX, in both the DEX-treated chow-fed and DEX-treated high-fat fed groups should be included.  
  
Minor points  
  
⎝ The figures 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D appear to be mislabeled in the legend.  
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⎝ There are typographical errors on both lines 278 & 406.  
  
  
  
Reviewer 2: Authors assessed some metabolic effects of increased glucocorticoid in combination with obesity induced by hyper-caloric feeding (in mice). Authors speculate that this combination of events is present in "many individuals". Therefore they propose that pre-clinical studies on this topic are needed. The results are very descriptive, in line with expectation, and no mechanism of action has been identified. Thus, this study is very descriptive and its results expected.  
  
Main criticisms:  
1) If authors wanted to mimic the clinical glucocorticoid treatment in mice, then was the increase in circulating glucocorticoid content experimentally-induced in mice comparable to the level seen in humans undergoing glucocorticoid therapy?  
2) What is the novelty of this study?  
3) Fig. 1A: In relative terms, insulin-induced changes in glycemia are similar between the 4 groups. Please, show data as percentage change over basal.  
4) Fig. 1C-F: What is the effect of glucocorticoid treatment on these parameters in NCD mice? Are these effects exacerbated in HFD?