

# Common Mistakes in PowerPoint Presentations



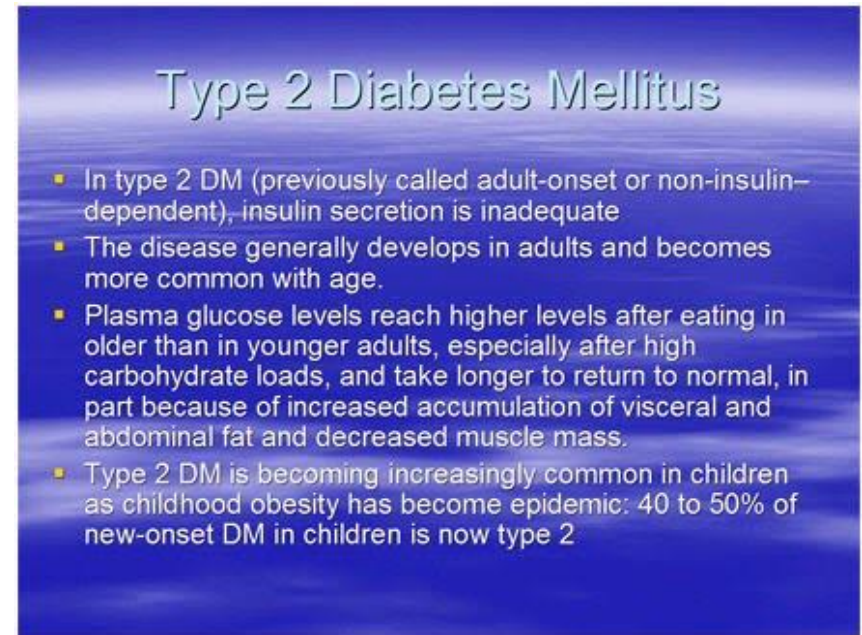
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# Content

- ☐ Color selection problem
- ☐ Font problem
- ☐ Content problem
- ☐ Presentation style problem

# Color selection problem

- Choose inappropriate background color and text color
- Ex: white text on a blue and white background  
→ very difficult for viewers to follow

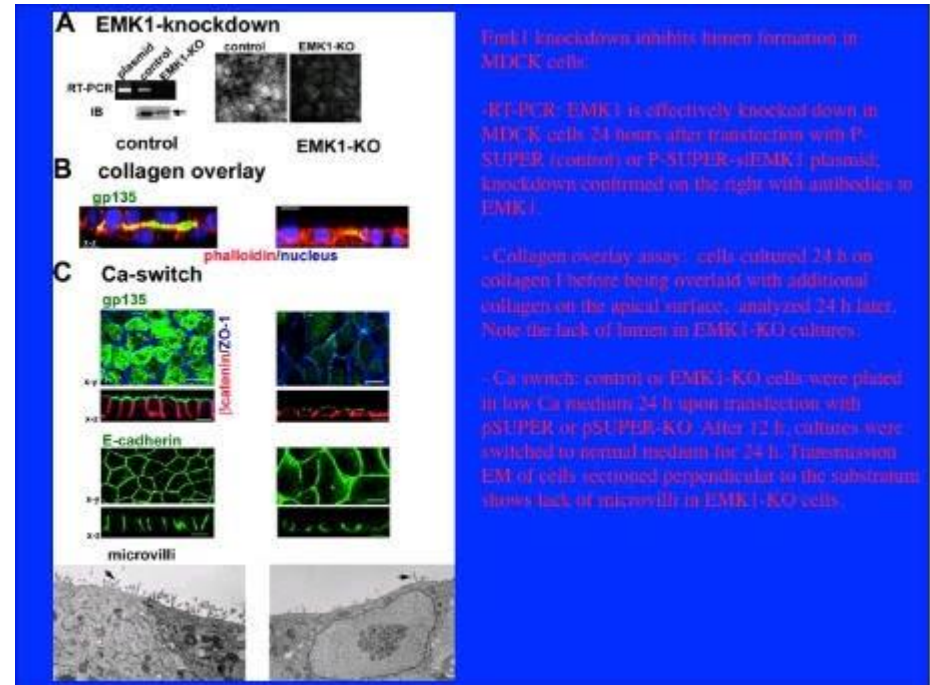
A presentation slide with a blue gradient background. The title 'Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus' is at the top in a light blue, serif font. Below it are four bullet points in a yellow font, each preceded by a small yellow square. The text is white on a blue background, which is a poor choice for readability.

## Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

- In type 2 DM (previously called adult-onset or non-insulin-dependent), insulin secretion is inadequate
- The disease generally develops in adults and becomes more common with age.
- Plasma glucose levels reach higher levels after eating in older than in younger adults, especially after high carbohydrate loads, and take longer to return to normal, in part because of increased accumulation of visceral and abdominal fat and decreased muscle mass.
- Type 2 DM is becoming increasingly common in children as childhood obesity has become epidemic: 40 to 50% of new-onset DM in children is now type 2

# Color selection problem (cont.)

- Chooses wrong color such as red letters on blue background → should avoid the red and green combination



Rất nhiều người không đọc được đầu – ngay cả khi đọc được thì cũng nhức mắt lắm!

# Color selection problem (cont.)

- How to choose the right color?
- Several ways to choose colors

→ avoid: yellow on white, black on blue, yellow on orange, etc.



## Màu sắc

Màu sáng trên nền tối cũng rất thích hợp.

Nhiều chuyên gia cho rằng màu xanh đen hoặc đen màu nền tốt nhất trong các buổi nói chuyện khoa học ở một thính phòng rộng.

# Font problem

## □ Typography

- Two main types of typefaces: non-serif and sans serif
  - Typical serif typefaces: Time, Times New Roman, Cambria
- Many Vietnamese people prefer to choose a serif typeface
- Some speakers like to "decorate" the text by shadowing the text

# Font problem (cont.)

□ Font size: Too small is bad to viewers

→ **Normal**: between 18 and 30

→ Arial font: size 18 or 20

→ Calibri font: size 25 or 30

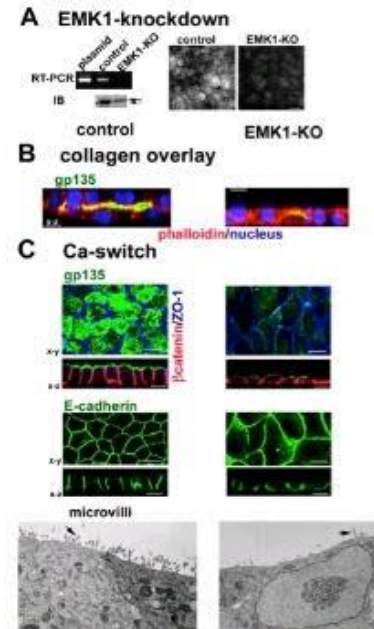
→ **Title**: should be 35 to 45

→ **Footnotes**: can size 12



# Too many words in the slide

- Present too much text on a slide
- Necessary to know the “nxn convention”
- If the slide has n lines → each line should have only n words



Emk1 knockdown inhibits lumen formation in MDCK cells:

- RT-PCR: EMK1 is effectively knocked down in MDCK cells 24 hours after transfection with P-SUPER (control) or P-SUPER-siEMK1 plasmid; knockdown confirmed on the right with antibodies to EMK1.

- Collagen overlay assay: cells cultured 24 h on collagen I before being overlaid with additional collagen on the apical surface, analyzed 24 h later. Note the lack of lumen in EMK1-KO cultures.

- Ca switch: control or EMK1-KO cells were plated in low Ca medium 24 h upon transfection with pSUPER or pSUPER-KO. After 12 h, cultures were switched to normal medium for 24 h. Transmission EM of cells sectioned perpendicular to the substratum shows lack of microvilli in EMK1-KO cells.

Không nên như thế này!



# Write slides like writing text

- ☐ Shouldn't write too long text
- ☐ Should be written in telegram format

# Content problem

## ☐ No message deliver

- Presentation without understand the major content

→ Must focus on deliver a key message

## ☐ Poor quality of information

- Presents poor information, lack relevance to the main topic

→ Careful on choosing and presenting information

# Content problem (cont.)

## ☐ Too much animation

- Distraction
- Cause audience focus effect than content
- Time waste

## ☐ Too much clipart

- Can be used to illustrate some ideas through clipart
- Using too much will backfire, reduce focus

# Presentation style problem (cont.)

## ☐ Read slide

- Talking machine, uninformed, and passive  
→ Should create an offensive impression

## ☐ Talking has nothing to do with slides

# Presentation style problem (cont.)

- ☐ Not use laser pointer
  - Using a laser pointer to point to talking places
  - Help audience understanding what speaker wants to say
- ☐ Use pointers arbitrarily: waving pointers in positions that have nothing to do with the slide

# Talking overtime

- ☐ An extremely common "disease"

- ☐ Impolite to the next speaker

→ Try to speak on time

Ex: If the report is 15 minutes, the speaker should have only 15 slides, or a maximum of 20 slides



# Gesture when presenting

## ☐ Shouldn't

- Putting hands in pants pockets
- Using fingers to point at the audience
- Crossing arms across the chest

# References

- Nguyen Van Tuan, Common mistakes in powerpoint presentations, 2021

