

# Aretaeus of cappadocia and the first description of diabetes

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**Who first described diabetes?** In the 2nd century AD Aretaeus of Cappadocia provided the first accurate description of diabetes, coining the term diabetes, while in 17th century Thomas Willis added the term mellitus to the disease, in an attempt to describe the extremely sweet taste of the urine.

**When was diabetes first described?** The term diabetes was probably coined by Apollonius of Memphis around 250 BC. Diabetes is first recorded in English, in the form diabete, in a medical text written around 1425. It was in 1675 that Thomas Willis added the word “mellitus” to the word diabetes. This was because of the sweet taste of the urine.

**When was Aretaeus of Cappadocia?** Aretaeus of Cappadocia, a Greek physician, who studied in Alexandria and practiced in Rome probably in the second century ce, is credited with the first accurate description of asthma, as we know it today (2).

**Did ancient people have diabetes?** According to one study , ancient Indians (circa 400–500 A.D.) were well aware of the condition, and had even identified two types of the condition. They tested for diabetes — which they called “honey urine” — by determining if ants were attracted to a person's urine.

**What is the first type of diabetes called?** Type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition. In this condition, the pancreas makes little or no insulin. Insulin is a hormone the body uses to allow sugar (glucose) to enter cells to produce energy.

**How did they treat diabetes in ancient Egypt?** Over 3,000 years ago, the ancient Egyptians mentioned a condition that appears to have been type 1 diabetes. It featured excessive urination, thirst, and weight loss. The writers recommended following a diet of whole grains to reduce the symptoms.

**How did they check blood sugar in the old days?** The first clinical exam for diabetes was performed by a doctor named Karl Tommer in 1841 who tested urine with acid hydrolysis which broke up the disaccharides into monosaccharides and then after the addition of other chemicals results in a reaction forming if sugar is present.

**What was diabetes like before insulin?** Prior to the discovery of insulin severe diabetics were treated primarily by means of a strict diet which inevitably led to starvation if not out and out death from the disease. Children in particular suffered terribly from these severely restricted diets.

**What is the old name for Cappadocia?** The area known as Cappadocia today was known to the Ancient Persians as Katpatuka, a name which the Greeks altered into ????????? (Cappadocia). The word is essentially of unknown etymology, but some have argued that it means "the land of beautiful horses".

**What is the brief history of Cappadocia?** The region was under the control of the Persians after the 6th Century BCE until Alexander the Great and his successors took control in the 3rd Century BCE. Cappadocia became a Roman province in 17 AD and Christian heritage started to flourish after it became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

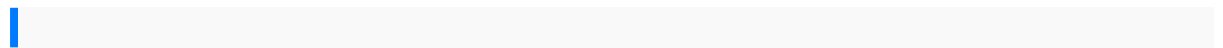
**What is Cappadocia called today?** Cappadocia (/kæp??do???? -?do?ki?/; Turkish: Kapadokya, Greek: ?????????) is a historical region in Central Anatolia, Turkey. It is largely in the provinces of Nev?ehir, Kayseri, Aksaray, K?r?ehir, Sivas and Ni?de.

**How did they diagnose diabetes in the 1920s?** In 1922 doctors treated the first diabetic American child with Somogyi's insulin. At that time, to confirm suspected diabetes, doctors would screen for sugar using copper solution and the patient's boiled urine.

**What did Charles best invent?** Banting & Best: The Discovery of Insulin On that date in 1921, Dr. Frederick Banting, a Canadian surgeon and Charles Best, a medical student, successfully isolated the hormone insulin for the first time.

**How was diabetes diagnosed in the 1950s?** A Shift Towards Detection & Treatment of Diabetes In 1922, the Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT) was first introduced. The 1950's saw the introduction of urine test strips, refined in 1964 by The Ames Company (a division of Miles Laboratory – eventually acquired by Bayer).

**Did diabetes used to be a death sentence?** Ninety years ago, type 1 diabetes was a death sentence: half of people who developed it died within two years; more than 90% were dead within five years. Thanks to the introduction of insulin therapy in 1922, and numerous advances since then, many people with type 1 diabetes now live into their 50s and beyond.



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