6 tips for physical activity with type 2 diabetes

The American College of Sports Medicine has released recommendations in the February 2022 issue of its flagship journal, Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise.



Regular aerobic exercise

Participating in regular aerobic exercise helps manage blood glucose.



Avoid crashing during or after a workout

People who use insulin should lower their levels or supplement with carbs to avoid a crash during or after their workout.



High-intensity resistance exercise

This type of exercise, when performed safely, will help more than low- to moderate-intensity exercise.



For those who use beta blockers:

Don't rely on a heart monitor to measure workout intensity.

Ask a certified exercise professional about using ratings of perceived exertion (RPE) to track how a workout feels.



Be active after meals

Being active after eating may help those with T2D reduce blood glucose.



When to schedule workouts

Try and schedule workouts after meals instead of before them.

Doing so will let you take advantage of exercise's blood glucose-stabilizing benefits.



"Exercise can play an important role in managing type 2 diabetes, and workouts can be modified to fit the abilities of most people," says lead author Jill A. Kanaley, Ph.D. "Those with type 2 diabetes who want to lose weight should consider workouts of moderately high volume for four to five days per week."

