

What's That Mean? – Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Hey Lana, what's up?

Marco was just admitted.

Again? How is he now?

Well, he's really nauseous.

Blood sugar at 320, ketones in his blood and urine. Oh man, that's diabetic ketoacidosis.

It sure is!

Diabetic ketoacidosis is a serious complication of diabetes. It occurs when your body produces high levels of blood acids called ketones.

Its symptoms and signs often develop quickly, within a day or so.

These include: excessive thirst, frequent urination, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, weakness, fatigue, shortness of breath, confusion, and fruity-smelling breath.

The blood sugar level will be very high (hyperglycemia) and there will be high ketone levels in the urine. Medical treatment is needed immediately! It can be very dangerous.