Biomarkers and triggers of beta cell dysfunction in diabetes

Beta cell dysfunction underlies the pathogenesis of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Understanding the pathways that lead to beta cell dysfunction may lead to approaches to prevent or ameliorate disease. One potential contributor to beta cell dysfunction in type 2 diabetes is aggregation of the beta cell peptide islet amyloid polypeptide (IAPP), which in turn triggers the recruitment and activation of macrophages to produce pro-inflammatory cytokine within the islet. Beta cells in diabetes produce incompletely processed forms of peptides, including forms derived from proIAPP, which are potential biomarkers of beta cell stress and dysfunction.

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