Artificial Pancreas Systems for Type 1 Diabetes

Mariana Isabel Marco Class, Alexandra Victoria Vargas Rivera
Jairo Rondón, PhD
Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico -Biomedical Engineering Department
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ABSTRACT

Type 1 Diabetes is a condition in which the pancreas does not produce insulin, leading to elevated blood glucose levels. Artificial pancreas systems were developed to automate glucose monitoring and insulin delivery using a closed-loop control mechanism. By integrating a continuous glucose monitor, an insulin pump, and a control algorithm, these systems improve blood sugar stability and reduce episodes of hypoglycemia. Although some technical limitations remain, artificial pancreas technology represents an important advancement in biomedical engineering and diabetes management.

INTRODUCTION

The pancreas is a gland that plays an important role in the body. It functions as both an exocrine gland, producing enzymes that aid digestion, and an endocrine gland, producing hormones such as insulin and glucagon that regulate blood sugar levels (PanCAN, 2026). In people with type 1 diabetes, the pancreas does not produce insulin. Without insulin, glucose cannot enter cells properly, leading to elevated blood sugar levels. Traditionally, individuals with type 1 diabetes must check their blood glucose several times a day and take insulin through injections or an insulin pump (NIDDK, 2021).

Artificial pancreas systems help automate this process. They continuously monitor glucose levels and adjust insulin delivery throughout the day and night. Most systems are called hybrid closed-loop systems, meaning they automatically deliver background insulin, but users still need to enter the amount of carbohydrates they eat at meals to calculate additional insulin doses (Ramli *et al.,* 2019).

OBJECTIVES

Explain the physiological role of the pancreas in glucose regulation and how this function is impaired in Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus.

Describe the engineering design and operation of artificial pancreas systems, including glucose sensors, insulin pumps, and control algorithms.

Evaluate how closed-loop systems improve glycemic control and address current technical limitations.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted through a structured bibliographic review of peer-reviewed scientific publications, clinical reports, and regulatory agency documentation related to artificial pancreas systems and glucose regulation technologies.

1. **Information Search and Collection**
Scientific databases were consulted to ensure comprehensive and reliable sources. Keywords used included: “artificial pancreas,” “closed-loop insulin delivery,” “continuous glucose monitoring,” “Type 1 diabetes,” and “automated insulin algorithms.”

2. **Selection and Organization of Sources**
Publications in English from 2020 to 2026 were selected based on relevance to system architecture, control algorithms, clinical performance, and technological challenges. The collected data were categorized into physiological background, system components, control strategies, and implementation challenges.

3. **Data Analysis**
A qualitative and comparative analysis was performed to evaluate system performance, engineering design principles, and clinical effectiveness. Emphasis was placed on feedback control mechanisms, sensor-pump integration, and algorithm-based insulin dosing (Rondón *et al.*, 2025).

DATA

Artificial pancreas systems operate as closed-loop control systems that replicate physiological glucose regulation. Real-time glucose measurements are processed by a control algorithm, which determines the appropriate insulin dose and activates an infusion pump to maintain glycemic stability (Ramli *et al.*, 2019).

The system consists of the following integrated components:

Component	Primary Function	Engineering Role	Limitations
Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM)	Measures interstitial glucose levels	Sensor input within feedback loop	Sensor lag; calibration variability
Insulin Infusion Pump	Delivers basal and bolus insulin doses	Acuator in drug delivery systems	Infusion site failure; mechanical risks
Control Algorithm	Calculates insulin dosing adjustments	Closed-loop feedback controller	Limited adaptability; dosing variability
Hybrid Closed-Loop System	Automates basal insulin delivery	Integrated sensor–controller–actuator system	Requires manual carbohydrate input

Table 1. Components in an Artificial Pancreas System (Nwokolo *et al.*, 2023).

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Artificial pancreas systems improve blood glucose control compared to traditional insulin therapy. By combining a glucose sensor, an insulin pump, and a control algorithm, the system operates as a closed-loop mechanism that helps keep glucose levels within a safe range (Nwokolo *et al.*, 2023). However, system performance depends on sensor accuracy and correct user input, especially in hybrid systems that require carbohydrate information at mealtimes. Although some technical limitations remain, artificial pancreas technology represents a major advancement in the management of Type 1 Diabetes.

CONCLUSIONS

Artificial pancreas systems are an important advancement in the treatment of Type 1 Diabetes. By combining a glucose sensor, an insulin pump, and a control algorithm, these systems help regulate blood sugar levels more effectively and reduce the need for constant manual monitoring. Although hybrid systems still require some user input and have minor technical limitations, they improve safety and glucose stability. Overall, artificial pancreas technology shows how biomedical engineering can improve disease management and enhance quality of life.

FUTURE WORK

Future work should focus on improving artificial pancreas systems to make them fully automated and easier to use. Better sensor accuracy and faster algorithms will help improve insulin delivery and overall safety. In addition, research on implantable systems and improved device materials may allow for longer-lasting solutions. Continued advancements will help make this technology more effective and accessible for people with Type 1 Diabetes.

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