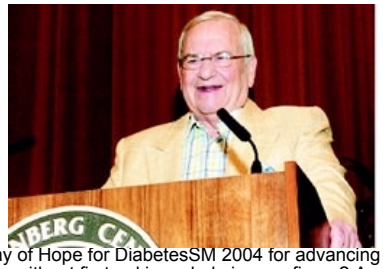
Painless Blood Sugar Testing

IS IT REALLY HERE?



Lee Iaccoca was honored at A Day of Hope for DiabetesSM 2004 for advancing research in curing Type 1 diabetes.

Is it truly possible to get an accurate reading of your blood sugar without first poking a hole in your finger? Apparently so. The SugarTrac™, by LifeTrac Systems, Inc., may be near to United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. This new device uses a sensor clipped to the earlobe, and a beam of light that measures the glucose in its capillaries (small blood vessels). There are no pin pricks, no chemicals, no test strips or sensitized pads required. The SugarTrac does require, however, one finger stick per month to calibrate.

In FDA Phase III clinical trials, the device was acceptably accurate 88 percent of the time (80 percent is the minimum accuracy required of all standard meters).

It will fit in your pocket or purse, as it is just slightly larger than a cell phone. The Sugartrac can also talk, announcing your blood glucose reading at the push of the button. This feature will be particularly helpful for individuals who have difficulty reading the numbers on their meters.

Lifetrac believes it will make the SugarTrac available to consumers for about $100. The earclip that measures the glucose levels (instead of a conventional test strip) is activated every 90 days by a code that the user obtains for about $10 to $15. So, for $40 to $60, one can test as often as they like, all year long. Those who have diabetes, who check regularly, realize how large this savings will be as compared to buying test strips.

The meter is going to Harvard Medical Center for final testing, and if all goes well, there may be a final approval from the FDA in 2006. A Day of Hope for Diabetes SM Saturday, March 12, 2005

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, this all-day event will bring inspiration and education to everyone interested in diabetes. Also, admission is absolutely free.

Doors open at 8 a.m. to more than a dozen educational seminars, a product fair displaying some of the best and most innovative items designed for the diabetes community, and for Desert Diabetes Club Members, free eye, heart, and foot screenings by medical professionals. This year, A Day of Hope for DiabetesSM will feature two well-respected and very well-informed inspirational speakers. In the past, celebrity speakers have included Miss America, Gordon Jump, Jack LaLanne, Gloria Loring and Lee Iacocca.

As always, our speakers and vendors are finalized as close to the event as possible to ensure that we are bringing to you the most current information. Please look for our final schedule in the next issue of Healthy Living as well as in the local newspapers and our new Web site, www.emc.org/ddc.

Membership Has Its Privileges

Members of the Desert Diabetes Club will receive a complete schedule of A Day of Hope for DiabetesSM to their mailing address, as well as preferred seating, and free entrance to the eye, heart, and foot screenings. Membership in the Desert Diabetes Club has other benefits as well, and is only $20 per year. Please become a member via www.emc.org/ddc or by calling 760-773-1578.

www.emc.org/ddc

The Desert Diabetes Club is proud to announce its latest membership service. Club news and views about diabetes-related issues and special events can be found at our new Web site, www.emc.org/ddc. Events

Desert Diabetes Club Lectures

Wednesday, January 19, 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 23, 2 to 3 p.m.

A Day of Hope for DiabetesSM

Saturday, March 12, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 760-773-1578 for information and reservations.

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