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Personal Technology: Walt Mossberg On Wireless-Enabled Glucometer

Testing blood-glucose levels without drawing blood may be part of a diabetic's futuristic dream. But for now, patients might find helpful a new device just being introduced that allows test results to be transmitted instantly to a private online database, [writes Personal Technology columnist Walt Mossberg in today's WSJ.](#)

The device, a glucometer called Telcare, made by a company of the same name, works much like a traditional meter. Patients insert a test strip into a small slot on the meter then prick a finger with a separate lancing device to produce a tiny drop of blood. A few seconds after touching the test strip to the blood drop, a glucose reading appears on the screen.



With Telcare, the difference is that the meter immediately sends the result to its online database, where it can be accessed by the patient or, with permission, by a doctor, caregiver or family member at a password-protected website or iPhone app.

Among the benefits, the system graphs and charts the results to highlight trends and spot problems. It automatically transmits relevant feedback, such as whether readings seem high or low, and allows doctors to send reactions and advice quickly.

Telcare joins a small handful of other glucometers able to transmit wirelessly, including Entra Health Systems' MyGlucoHealth that sends readings via Bluetooth to a cellphone for transmission to an online portal. Perhaps in the future, diabetics will be able to use a testing device that eliminates the need for skin pricks. One product under development by PositiveID Corp. is Easy Check, which aims to determine glucose levels by measuring a patient's exhaled breath.

Mossberg has called for an [increased focus on consumer medical technology](#). Watch him review the Telcare glucometer in this video:

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