

Insulin Inhalers: A Hopeful Alternative

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Diabetes is a disease that is affecting more & more people everyday. In America alone, over 18.2 million people have some type of diabetes, and only 13 million of those are diagnosed.

The two major types of diabetes are Type 1 & Type 2. Type 1 diabetes is when the pancreatic cells are destroyed within the pancreas, and don't produce any more insulin. Type 2 diabetes is when the body can still produce insulin; however, not enough for the body to function normally or doesn't work properly. Insulin is a hormone. Its role in the body is to breakdown sugars and starches into energy.

The traditional methods of delivering insulin into the body are by use of syringe, insulin pump, or through digestive medications. These methods have obvious disadvantages. The syringe has been a long feared medical tool & is painful for the patient. The insulin pump must be worn at all times by the patient, making some activities more of a hassle. Finally, the digestive medication has proved to be not very effective.

Nektar with help from Pfizer have devised inhalers that will allow easier insulin delivery. It shoots particle

insulin deep into the lungs to

allow easy and quick delivery. While further tests and product refining is necessary, the FDA has approved this device in a 7-2 vote. Further studies will be going into shrinking insulin particles, and making the device itself more time and dosage effective.



References

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