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NEWS

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**Research volunteers with diabetes
needed for human insulin study.

DALLAS--Wanted: 10 men and women with diabetes. Free insulin for a year and training in self-monitoring.

Researchers at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas need these volunteers with diabetes for clinical tests of human insulin. Volunteers must be between the ages of 21 and 40 and be dependent on insulin, says Sue Strowig, research nurse. Also they must not be monitoring themselves at this time since part of the study includes training in self-monitoring of blood glucose levels.

The health science center will furnish the research subjects with free insulin and blood-monitoring supplies. In return, the subjects will use the human insulin and come in for blood and urine tests for one year. For the first six months, they will be required to come in once a month, and for the second six months, once every three months.

The subjects will also have the satisfaction of being research partners in a study of the benefits and possible side-effects of taking human insulin, says Dr. Phillip Raskin, associate professor of Internal Medicine and director of the study.

Most diabetics who take insulin now take a combination of beef and port insulin, which are slightly different chemically from human insulin, says Raskin. Beef and pork insulin cause an allergic reaction in about five percent of the diabetics who take insulin. It is expected that human insulin may also benefit patients with no evidency of allergy since the compound is identical to that produced by the human body.

Until now it has been impossible to produce human insulin in the lab for a price patients could afford. But chemical techniques developed by Novo Laboratories, Inc., changes pork insulin into human insulin by modifying one amino acid on the molecule. The pork insulin is extracted from pancreata obtained at the slaughterhouse, as are the pork and beef insulin now in use.

Patients who want to participate in the study need the approval of their personal physicians, who must be willing to continue to care for them, says Pat Challis, research nurse. She stresses that this is a research study and patients will still see their own physicians on a regular basis.

Volunteers may call Pat Challis or Sue Strowig at 688-3473 or 688-2017.

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