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A1c May Eventually Be Replaced by Glycated Albumin Test

By [Gary Gilles](#), About.com Guide March 9, 2011

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A [hemoglobin A1c test](#) is designed to measure your long-term blood sugar over a period of 2-3 months. [Daily glucose monitoring](#) measures your blood sugar right now. A new rapid result test is in development that would give you indicators of short-term blood sugar control every three weeks.

The new test is called The G1A™ and measures glycated albumin (GA), which is the amount of glucose that collects on the protein albumin. When there is an excessive amount of glucose binding with albumin it can lead to stiffening of tissues and raise the risk of [complications](#) such as buildup of plaque in the arteries, nerve damage, retinopathy and impaired cognitive function.

Some studies have shown that shorter-term markers for glucose control may lead to better management of glucose than longer-term measures with the A1c test. So, instead of waiting 3-6 months for an A1c test, which is the current recommendation, the rapid and inexpensive glycated albumin test could be performed monthly.

Several studies have confirmed that measurements of glycated albumin and glycated [hemoglobin](#) (A1c) are closely correlated. Though the GA test has been available in labs for years, [Epinex Diagnostics](#), the developer of the rapid result GA measurement, believes the mounting scientific evidence that supports GA testing will eventually gain wide acceptance among professionals. Numerous studies show the need for a mid-range test that could be performed monthly as another means of helping people with diabetes manage their glucose levels more effectively.

What are your thoughts on a mid-range glucose test that could be performed monthly? If the test were easy, affordable and widely available, you would see this as an asset to your management plan? Post your comments below.



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(1) **Pauline says:** :

March 10, 2011 at 12:12 pm

My very first thought was: Every three weeks! That's great for control. My second thought was: it's probably got to be done at a lab of Dr.'s office. My third thought was: No doubt that the expense will be prohibitive.

(2) **Scott says:** :

March 15, 2011 at 7:21 pm

It is far less expensive than the daily blood glucose test AND the A1c Test. I've been following this company for a couple of years and they are developing a Point of Care Test, home test, that is much less expensive than the others. It does NOT have to be done at a lab or Dr.'s office. This will replace the A1c and will change the way diabetics monitor themselves!! Great test!

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