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(54) **RAPID TEST FOR GLYCATED ALBUMIN IN SALIVA**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention describes a rapid immunochromatographic assay for measuring the ratio of glycosylated albumin to total albumin in saliva. Patients with diabetes have elevated levels of glucose in their blood that can react with plasma albumin to form glycosylated albumin. The amount of glycosylated albumin formed is directly correlated with the level of plasma glucose that the albumin has been exposed to over a period of time. Saliva albumin is derived from plasma albumin and therefore contains glycosylated and non-glycosylated albumin fractions that can be measured. The ratio of glycosylated albumin to total albumin in saliva will provide an indication of the average amount of protein glycosylation that occurred over the preceding 2-3 week period. The test is performed using a disposable strip that contains the testing reagents and the results are measured in a measuring instrument that automatically reads, calculates and displays the final result. The results of tests performed over a period of time are stored in the instrument's memory and presented in a numerical or graphical format so that the individual's glycosylated albumin level can be monitored over time.