

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

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Diabetes treatment makes breakthrough

The 6th Arab Diabetes Forum, held in Cairo recently, highlighted newly developed drugs for treating diabetes. The forum focused on providing more care for diabetics and limiting the complications accompanying the disease.

There are 387 million diabetics worldwide and that number is expected to jump to 592 million people by 2035.

Studies show an increase in the disease due to unhealthy life styles and genetic factors. Furthermore, patients neglecting to carry out the doctor's instructions expose themselves to even greater health problems.

Dr Abbas Orabi, professor of diabetes at Zagazig University, said that Egypt, with 7.5 million diabetics, occupies the ninth position globally with regard to the number of diabetes cases. That number, moreover, is expected to become 13 million by 2035.

The forum revealed that a new drug, created by genetic engineering to treat type two diabetes, can control the glucose level in the blood for 24 hours. Liraglutide also helps the patient avoid dizziness and, possibly, fainting.

The new drug, which stimulates insulin production, also slows down digestion and increases the feeling of fullness in the stomach, which helps to reduce weight and fats in the abdomen. This medicine is a breakthrough for

patients with type-2 diabetes brought on by obesity.

According to Dr Ali Abdel Reheim, professor of endocrinology, Alexandria University, the new medicine is similar in its composition to the normal hormones in the body. It reduces antibodies and, consequently, keeps its effectiveness inside the body.

The forum also put the spotlight on second generation insulin treatment for both diabetes type-1 and type-2 which extends the effectiveness of the drug to 42 hours. This allows control of the glucose level in the blood during sleep and in the periods before meals.

Dr Eman Rushdi, professor of endocrinology, Cairo University, said the new drug can be used by the patient just once daily without being bound by the times of meals. It decreases the risk of reducing glucose levels in the blood and improves the function of the pancreas, allowing it to secrete more insulin.

The event also discussed the importance of controlling the glucose level in the blood, especially after meals, as there is an association between elevated sugar in the blood and complications of the disease.

Egyptian diabetics are known to consume large quantities of carbohydrates at mealtimes that create a need to use new drugs in different concentrations.



DR Abbas Orabi, (1st right) and Dr Ali Abdel Reheim (2nd right) highlight the developed drugs for treating diabetes during the 6th Arab Diabetes forum held recently in Cairo.