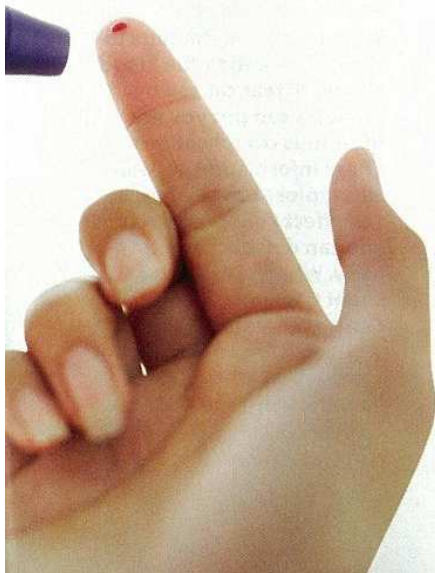


no more needle blood tests

If the thought of blood tests make you cringe, take heart – traditional extracting tests are fast becoming a thing of the past, thanks to a new non-invasive blood-monitoring device. It works by using multiple wavelengths of light in a single sensor. Masimo Corporation's award-winning Radical-7 Signal Extraction Pulse Co-Oximeter continuously and non-invasively measures blood constituents in patients, without having to draw blood. "This is a new technology that can provide blood measurements that, until recently, you needed a blood test for," explains Rikki Mills, Masimo's Australian manager. "There is capacity for further development. A non-invasive blood glucose test for diabetics is not out of the realm of possibility down the track." The device is now being used in Australian hospitals.



LUPINS SECRET WEAPON IN DIABETES CRISIS

A protein found in lupins could be the key to a diabetes cure, say Italian scientists, who've found this pulse can regulate the amount of insulin the body produces. Lupins are touted as a good appetite regulator, too, so they could help you lose weight. According to Dr Marcello Durante, from the University of Milan, lupin is an edible protein, which was described in an old pharmacopoeia as having anti-diabetes activity. Dr Durante studied lupin crops in Perth as part of the research. Two lupin-based products said to boost fullness when added to meals are available in Australia. Check out Lupin+ Formula, a low-GI, gluten-free product developed here by Appetite Right (visit www.appetiteright.com.au or call 1300 307 646)



AUSSIE DIABETICS hopeful about NZ pig trial

Hundreds of Australians living with type 1 diabetes are reportedly keen to join a cutting-edge trial in New Zealand to transplant pig cells into humans. Islet cells, from the pancreas of pigs, are coated with a seaweed gel and implanted into the abdomen of patients to manufacture insulin and help control their blood sugar levels. If the trial succeeds, it's hoped patients will no longer need insulin injections. But critics have warned that the procedure, known as xenotransplantation, carries the risk of transferring deadly pig diseases to humans. To alleviate the danger, Professor Bob Elliott, from Living Cell Technologies, says the pigs chosen have been kept in quarantine and bred from a unique and isolated herd free from retroviruses. "This is a world first," says Professor Elliott, who's been working on the pioneering treatment for 12 years. "It will do something I think all diabetics have been wanting, which is a self-regulating cell that will produce insulin on demand and stop producing when it's not needed."

