

Background

- Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) is one of the most common measurements used in the assessment of glycemic control.
- It is thought to reflect the average glycemic control over the previous 3 months and to predict the occurrence of diabetes related complications.
- Testing HbA1c in the population at risk can be used to screen for diabetes as well.

Method

- Routine HbA1c testing was performed on existing diabetic and at risk patients (obesity, existing symptoms).
- A cost analysis was performed to compare the price of HbA1c kits purchased in our pediatric endocrinology clinic to the total collections from payers over a two year study period

Results

- The total cost of HbA1c kits in 2 fiscal years was \$14485.86. The total collections from testing HbA1c in the same period was \$28595. This shows a positive balance of \$14109.14 (average of \$7000 per year).
- When adjusted for personnel's time of handling the kits, preparing daily the machine, testing patients and reporting results (20 % of total time multiplied by total salary of \$29000), the profit is estimated to be around \$ 1200 per year.

Conclusion

- Testing HbA1c in the clinic setting offers immediate feedback to both the clinician and patients about diabetes control. When combined with an analysis of clinical symptoms and other laboratory tests, the HbA1c can be a tool to provide an instant diagnosis for diabetes.
- Testing HbA1c during clinic visit seems to be profitable even after adjusting for personnel's expenses.