

The Potentially Revolutionary Replacement for Insulin Injections

Wendy Peacock suffered at the hands of Type 1 diabetes for more than 20 years. Today, however, she is producing her own insulin.

On Sunday morning, August 16, Wendy Peacock received a phone call that would change her life. Later that afternoon, Peacock, 43, a single mother and a candidate for a new clinical trial, was on a plane to Miami, FL, where researchers performed a minimally invasive islet transplant procedure two days later.

Just three weeks after her transplant, Peacock was free from insulin injections in record time following the implantation of islet cells within a biological scaffold placed on the inside lining of her abdominal organs. Peacock is now producing her own insulin naturally, for the first time since being diagnosed with the disease at age 17.

About the trial

In this pilot study, researchers are testing a unique transplant technique for insulin-producing cells,

building upon decades of progress in islet transplantation. The trial is an important first step toward developing the DRI BioHub, a bioengineered mini-organ that mimics the native pancreas to restore natural insulin production in people with Type 1 diabetes.

"The first subject in our Phase I/II pilot BioHub trial is now completely off insulin with an excellent glucose profile," says Camillo Ricordi, M.D., director of the Diabetes Research Institute/University of Miami, where the clinical trial is taking place.

These are the best post-transplant results we've seen in an islet recipient."

"I do a mental checklist every day in my head," Peacock declares. "Glucose tabs, food, glucometer, etc. And then I stop and say, 'WOW! I don't have to plan that anymore.' I'm still processing the fact that I'm not taking insulin anymore." ■

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By **Diabetes Research Institute Foundation**

