



Who is Insulin Pump Therapy right for?

Question:

Why would someone with diabetes want to use an insulin pump?

Diabetes specialist nurse:

“In general, insulin pump therapy could be considered for someone with diabetes who is not achieving their goals.

More specifically if we're looking at specific reasons for insulin pump therapy is perhaps if someone's having problems with hypoglycemia especially if they've lost their warning signs of hypoglycemia or if they have altered warning signs of hypoglycemia

Another reason may be for pre-pregnancy. Women with type 1 diabetes considering pregnancy insulin pump therapy has been shown to improve blood glucose levels and reduce variability in blood glucose levels.

Another reason may be if someone has undertaken a carbohydrate counting course, is using basal bolus therapy but is not achieving the blood glucose levels that they require.

Another reason might be when patients are having problems with dawn phenomenon - blood sugar levels are satisfactory overnight but rise early in the morning, despite changing their basal rates, their basal insulin, they can have problems with hypoglycemia.

Question:

And which patients would not be suitable for insulin pump therapy?

Diabetes specialist nurse:

Patients with type 2 diabetes, perhaps some patients who have mental health problems, and those patients who are not motivated or unwilling to monitor their blood sugars at least four to six times a day, carbohydrate count and adjust their insulin doses accordingly.

Also possibly patients who are visually impaired.

