

## Variability of Blood Glucose Meters for Patient Self-Testing: Analysis of the Article by Brzag and Coauthors

Andreas Pfützner, M.D., Ph.D.

### Abstract

The article by Brzag and coauthors in this issue of *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology* reports a competitive accuracy performance study for a branded meter in comparison with six low-cost meters currently available in the United States. It highlights several important topics: (1) the need for more stringent post-marketing requirements for blood glucose meters after launch and (2) low-cost meters use older technologies and their manufacturers do not usually seriously invest in new technology or constant quality assurance efforts. This may explain the study results, which show superior performance of the branded meter. Finally, the article pinpoints to the “quality versus price” dilemma faced by the prescribing physician and their patients in daily routine, which may be additionally aggravated by budget constraints and prescription rules in reimbursed markets.

*J Diabetes Sci Technol* 2013;7(1):153–155

---

**Author Affiliation:** IKFE Institute for Clinical Research and Development, Mainz, Germany

---

**Abbreviations:** (ISO) International Organization for Standardization

---

**Keywords:** accuracy, blood glucose meter, ISO 15197, patient self-measurement

---

**Corresponding Author:** Andreas Pfützner, M.D., Ph.D., IKFE Institute for Clinical Research and Development, Parcusstr. 8, D-55116 Mainz, Germany; email address [andreas@ikfe.de](mailto:andreas@ikfe.de)