

EVALUATION



A guide to lancing devices on the UK market

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best practice**



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Points to remember

Lancing devices are used widely to obtain a capillary blood sample usually from the fingertip for the measurement of blood glucose.

Depth setting

Refers to the length of the lancet tip available for puncture. Generally the greater the number of depth settings means the operator can finely adjust the depth to optimise the amount of blood produced and minimise the pain.

Recommended lancets

Manufacturers often provide or recommend alternative lancets that are suitable for use with their lancing devices.

Needle diameter

Currently available needle lancets vary between 33 gauge and 21 gauge. Narrow lancets tend to decrease pain and blood volume.

Operating steps

Number of operating steps can influence performance – the more steps involved in using the device increases the likelihood that it could be used incorrectly.

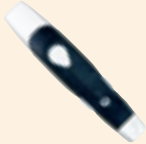


Safety

Safety features are important to reduce the risk of cross contamination. For example:





- **Prevention of lancet tip exposure (pre-puncture)**
The lancet is sterile at this stage but an accidental needlestick could cause indirect cross contamination.
- **Automatic lancet retraction (post-puncture)**
Lancet retraction into the body of the device should be automatic and permanent to prevent re-use, particularly in multiple patient situations.
- **Lancet ejection mechanism**
Some devices incorporate a mechanism to enable the operator to eject the used lancet without having to remove and recap it by hand.
- **Prevention of lancet re-use**
Residual blood on the lancet or endcap can result in cross infection. It should be mechanically impossible to re-use these components in multiple patient systems.

Alternative site testing

Capillary blood can be obtained from the thigh, forearm, palm and abdomen using a clear endcap supplied with the device.

Company:	Abbott Diabetes Care		Owen Mumford
Lancing devices:	Easy Touch	FreeStyle Lancing Device	Autolet Impression
			
Depth settings:	8 depth settings	5 depth settings	7 depth settings
Recommended lancets:	MediSense Thin Lancets (28 G)	FreeStyle lancets (25 G)	Unilet ExceLite (23 G) Unilet ComforTouch (28 G) Unilet GP Ultralite (28 G) Unilet GP Superlite (23 G) Unilet GP (21 G)
Number of steps:	8 steps	9 steps	10 steps
Safety: Prevention of lancet tip exposure:	No	No	No
Automatic lancet retraction:	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lancet ejection mechanism:	No	No	No
Prevention of lancet re-use:	No	No	No
Alternative site testing (AST) capability:	Yes – with clear endcap (10 steps)	Yes – with clear endcap (10 steps)	Yes, using Unilet ComforTouch lancet & clear endcap (9 steps)
Other information:			3 force settings that increase or decrease the force at which lancet penetrates sample site

Menarini Diagnostics	Roche Diagnostics			Bayer Diagnostics	
Glucoject Dual	Softclix	Softclix Pro (Professional use)	Multiclix	Microlet	Microlet Vaculance (AST only)
					
7 depth settings	11 depth settings	11 depth settings	11 depth settings	5 depth settings	4 depth settings
Glucomen Fine Various Type A	Softclix (28 G) (specific Type C)	Softclix Pro (25 G) (specific Type C)	Integrated lancet drum containing 6 lancets (30 G)	Microlet Various Type A	Microlet
10 steps	10 steps	6 steps	6 steps	10 steps	13 steps
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Used lancets stored in drum ready for disposal	No	No
No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Yes – clear endcap required	Yes – with clear endcap (10 steps)	No	Yes – with clear endcap (6 steps)	No	Yes
3 force adjustments		For professional use only in a multipatient environment		2 endcaps: regular & super	Not to be used for fingerpricking. For alternative site testing only

LifeScan	DiagnoSys Medical	Becton Dickinson	Hypoguard
OneTouch UltraSoft	Gentle Draw	BD Optimus	Palco Advance Microdraw
			
7 depth settings	5 depth settings	6 depth settings	5 depth settings
OneTouch UltraSoft (28 G) OneTouch FinePoint Lancets	Prestige Lite Touch Lancets (28 G)	Micro-Fine+ Lancet	TechLite Lancets (21 G, 25 G & 28 G) Most Type A lancets
8 steps	10 steps	10 steps	10 steps
No	No	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	No	No
No	No	No	No
Yes – with Ultraclear endcap	Yes – with clear endcap	No	No

EVALUATION

The Device Evaluation Service (DES) is a major provider of medical device evaluations. In 2004, DES evaluated over 400 products offering guidance on best choice and best practice to the NHS and Social Service organisations. DES helps deliver government priorities by producing impartial comparative information for purchasers and users.

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