

VNR Script (1:40)

With nearly 26 million Americans affected by diabetes – it's a national epidemic for sure.

B-Roll: Lifestyle footage of People who appear to have diabetes (overweight); mix of races—Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, Native American

There are many medications available to treat people with diabetes, but which medication, or combinations of medications work the best? That is what a new study sponsored by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health hopes to find out.

B-Roll: Medications (pills, syringes, insulin containers; assembly line, pharmacist counting pills, shelves of medications, etc.)

The GRADE Study, which stands for the clinical sounding Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness Study is the first study that hopes to answer that very question.

B-Roll: Dr. Nathan on his computer

Chiron: David M. Nathan, MD
Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Diabetes Unit
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Chairman of the GRADE Study

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~~Although we have numerous medications and other means of treating type 2 diabetes, there have not been in the past studies that compare these methods one to the other. Therefore, even though we have this epidemic and we have numerous ways of treating diabetes, we don't actually know which is the best way to do so, and importantly, we don't know which method is best for which individual.~~ The GRADE study is the first comparative effectiveness study which will look directly at four of the major treatments for diabetes, compare them and try to determine which one or ones are the best for treating type 2 diabetes.

The GRADE study is enrolling 5,000 people with type 2 diabetes in medical centers all over the United States, [including here in [City]]. But those interested in participating have to be comfortable settling in for the long haul.

B-Roll: Dr. Nathan and patient



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We have a large number of treatments now, and those have become available really mostly in the last decade. Each one of these drugs has specific advantages and disadvantages, they have different cost in terms of both cost to the individual as well as to society, and we are trying to determine, in the setting of this epidemic, which one really will serve us best over time. The GRADE study is a long-term study, especially compared to previous studies in diabetes. It's going to go for as long as seven years, and we hope to see over that period of time which of these treatments is best for the population as a whole, as well as which one drug or combination of drugs may be best for specific individuals.

But people who participate can benefit as well...

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The advantages of being in the GRADE study are several fold. Number one is that they will be getting diabetes care free of charge by a group of experts at various academic centers around the country. Secondly, they will have routine testing such as cardiograms that will be done periodically and cholesterol testing and those results will also be sent to their own healthcare providers taking the place, to some extent, of the usual care that they would otherwise require. So that's all good for the individual. Free diabetes care as well as other tests. But the main thing we think is that, frankly, people who join the study are usually very interested in helping answer a question. We have posed a clinical and scientific question that really requires an answer and that will ultimately help determine how best to treat type 2 diabetes.

Anyone interested in learning more about the GRADE Study, can visit the website at gradestudy.org to find the contact information for the medical center in your area [here in [City]].

{Alternatively: Here in [City] The GRADE Study is being conducted at [Site Name]. Anyone interested in learning more can call them at [###-###-####] or visit [the News Program Website] for more information.}

Visual: Slate of website address or site phone number

Reporter Outro (to be read by reporter on camera):

It looks like in a few years doctors are going to get the information they need to better treat the tens of millions of Americans with diabetes, as well as the 79 million people with what's called pre-diabetes if they end up needing diabetes medication in the future.

