

United States Patient Preference and Usability for the New Disposable Insulin Device SoloSTAR[®] versus Other Disposable Pens

Jerome S. Fischer, M.D.,¹ Steven V. Edelman, M.D.,² and Sherywn L. Schwartz, M.D., P.A.¹

Abstract

The uptake of insulin pen use has been slow in the United States, despite their advantages over the vial/syringe. We present results of a United States subset of 150 patients with type 1/type 2 diabetes, who were enrolled in an open-label study, that assessed usability, pen features, and patient preferences for four prefilled insulin pens: SoloSTAR[®], FlexPen[®], Lilly disposable pen, and a prototype, Pen X. Overall, the SoloSTAR and FlexPen were more user-friendly; 95 and 88% of patients, respectively, completed the steps correctly (without safety/attach-needle step—deemed independent of device) versus the Lilly disposable pen (60%) and Pen X (61%; all $p < 0.05$). The SoloSTAR was rated highest most frequently for pen feature comparisons. Results suggest that the SoloSTAR and FlexPen could potentially facilitate insulin use in the United States.

J Diabetes Sci Technol 2008;2(6):1157-1160

Author Affiliations: ¹Diabetes and Glandular Disease Research Associates, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, and ²University of California, San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Diego, California

Abbreviations: (OAD) oral antidiabetic drug, (SD) standard deviation, (T1DM) type 1 diabetes mellitus, (T2DM) type 2 diabetes mellitus

Keywords: disposable pen, FlexPen, insulin device, Lilly disposable pen, SoloSTAR, United States

Corresponding Author: Sherywn L. Schwartz, M.D., P.A., Diabetes and Glandular Disease Research Associates, Inc., 5107 Medical Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229-4801; email address slschwartz@dgdclinic.com