In the Nick of Time

Blood glucose concentrations were compared in samples taken from healthy cats and those with diabetes mellitus. Samples were collected with a marginal ear vein (MEV) nick, peripheral venous catheter, and direct venipuncture. Concentrations were measured with a portable blood glucose meter. For all cats, mean blood glucose concentrations were not significantly different between MEV nick and peripheral venous catheter. For healthy cats, mean blood glucose concentrations by MEV nick were not significantly different from those in samples collected by direct venipuncture. For cats with diabetes mellitus, blood glucose concentration of samples collected by MEV nick differed significantly from those collected by direct venipuncture, but for the range of concentrations examined, the differences were not clinically important. Only a drop of blood is required for blood glucose analysis with a portable glucose meter, so the MEV nick technique should serve well. It minimizes patient discomfort and restraint, preserves the integrity of the peripheral vein, and facilitates collection by 1 person. Try it; you'll like it!

Comparison of glucose concentrations in blood samples obtained with a marginal ear vein nick technique versus from a peripheral vein in healthy cats and cats with diabetes mellitus. Thompson MD, Taylor SM, Adams VJ, Waldner CL, Feldman EC. JAVMA 221:389-392, 2002.