

# *Cuban Diabetics Living Longer*

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CIEGO DE AVILA, Cuba, Apr 3 (RHC) 84% of people suffering from diabetes mellitus in Cuba reaches a life expectancy similar to those without the disease, which is today 78 years old

During a provincial workshop previous to the call for the provincial scientific day of the international conference on the Comprehensive Care to Patient with Diabetic Foot Ulcers, it was indicated that the result is due to medical work done in the country with a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach.

Eduardo Alvarez Seija, Specialist in Endocrinology and member of the technical-advisor national commission for Diabetes Mellitus in the Ministry of Public Health reported that preventing the pandemic from the family doctors' and clinics is gaining strength.

He said that the operation of centers or houses for diabetics, where the guidelines on how to educate people suffering from this illness are established, highlight among the achievements of the national program of care for the disease.

Although the number of Cubans with this ailment increases for years, Cuba is one of the few countries in the world showing a tendency to decrease deaths from this cause, Alvarez Seija stated.

Moreover, Dr. Manuel Raíces Pérez-Castañeda, who works at the Center of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) noted that the use of Heberprot-P, drug developed in this scientific institution for foot ulcers in diabetics, extends with remarkable results to 48 hospitals and over 315 clinics in the nation.

This action of the Ministry of Public Health, particularly the services of Angiology, has allowed more than 29 000 people to be benefited since 2007 to date in the country with this product, mainly in the areas of primary care.

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