

Novartis to use Google technology for eye care

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Swiss drug developer Novartis will team with technology giant Google to develop a "smart" contact lens that could improve some eye conditions or help diabetics manage their disease.

Terms of the agreement between the companies were not detailed in a statement released Tuesday by Novartis.

The drugmaker said its Alcon eye care division will license Google technology and work with a team from Google to develop a lens that uses microchips and miniaturized electronics. Novartis is focused on developing a contact lens that can provide a continuous measurement of [glucose levels](#) in [diabetic patients](#) by measuring tear fluid.

It also said the lens has the potential to help restore the eye's natural auto focus on near objects for patients with [presbyopia](#) who can no longer read without glasses. Presbyopia is a condition where the eye loses its ability to focus.

"This is a key step for us to go beyond the confines of traditional disease management, starting with the eye," Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez said in a statement.

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