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Featuring Sleep Sensors

The ∏uture o∏ medical care and technology is increasingly intersecting.

At CES 2018, sleep was one o the major topics in thess technology. Initially "health tech" was mostly centered on step counters, digital workout coaches, and heart-rate trackers, in the orm o wearable technology like Fitbit, Garmin, and Apple watch which track sleep based on movement, heart rate, and breathing patterns. Smartwatches and three trackers have been using the principles o actigraphy: Monitoring your movements as you sleep with algorithms used to calculate your cycles. The less you move, the thinking goes, the deeper your sleep. But not everyone wants to sleep wearing a band. The new trend is to use "contactless" devices that can be placed near you or in your bed to track and monitor your sleep.

The lack o□ sleep has been associated with health issues such as high blood pressure, diabetes and increased risk o□ heart attacks.

CES, this year, was \square ocused not only on tracking your sleep, but also on helping you to improve it.

Let's have a look at some o

the products that were exhibited.

Nokia Sleep: This Wi-Fi-enabled mat is placed under your mattress and gathers all kinds o in ormation about your sleep. It deploys sensors and a mobile app to track heart rate, breathing patterns, how long you sleep, how rest ul your sleep was and your snoring patterns. Algorithms make sense o the sensor data to give you a sleep score and it then gives you recommendations on how to improve your sleep. It also eatures IFTTT (I This Then That) integration (home automation) such as dimming lights when you go to bed, or turning up your thermostat when you get up.

Dreamlight sleep mask: It is a Bluetooth-connected sleep mask that covers your eyes and ears. It dims and illuminates light to match with your breathing and plays ambient sounds to block out the noise.

Somnox robot pillow: Somnox is a robot pillow that \square eatures an accelerometer, an audio sensor, and a carbon dioxide sensor. As you hold it to your chest when you're in bed, you can \square eel Somnox expand and contract as i \square it were breathing. This, in turn, helps you relax and regulate your breathing as you \square all asleep.

SleepScore Max, [rom a startup called SleepScore labs, is also a contactless solution but

employs a device that sits on a nightstand. The companion app asks some questions about alcohol and calleine consumption to gain more insight into variables that can allect sleep. Then the device uses bio movement analysis to determine quantity and quality oll sleep, as well as monitors the environmental lactors like temperature. It aggregates that into a numerical sleep score as well as analysis oll quality oll sleep and phases. The company also aims to improve sleep patterns by recommending products around lighting, pillows, and sound therapy based on the individual's personal sleep data.

The next wave o□ sleep gadgets is expected to hit the market shortly and is likely to include more sophisticated sleep-trackers that can monitor brain activity. At present, the brainwave patterns are thought to be the best indicators o□ sleep patterns.

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