

Can gene editing help with hereditary eye diseases? A new study explores the possibility

Researchers from Switzerland say they have developed a gene editing technique that could perhaps help treat Stargardt disease, a rare, inherited eye disease that leads to vision loss



A research team from the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology, Basel in Switzerland, has developed a technique to edit genes, to demonstrate how it could be used to perhaps cure Stargardt disease, a rare, genetic eye disease that leads to vision loss.

Stargardt disease is an inherited disease that leads to progressive vision loss in children and young adults. It is usually bilateral, involving both eyes. Everybody's eyes contain a yellowish-brown pigment called lipofuscin that builds up in cells as people age. People with Stargardt disease have too much lipofuscin -- it builds up over the macula, which is the central part of the retina and is responsible for clear and sharp central vision.

News Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/can-gene-editing-help-with-genetic-eye-conditions-a-new-study-explores-the-possibility/article69108472.ece>