

Virus-free gene therapy for HIV shows promise

An experimental gene therapy for HIV may actually be easier—and even safer—than experts originally hoped. Experimenting with zinc finger nucleases (ZFNs), researchers at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, have discovered it's possible to cut out an undesirable “middle man”—a virus (not HIV) that carries the gene-altering payload to cells in the body. Until now, such viral vectors were considered a necessary element of gene therapy.

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