

Gene therapy breakthrough for age-related macular degeneration

Wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) occurs when blood vessels grow and leak fluid into the macula, the central portion of the retina. If left untreated, this condition can lead to vision loss. A new gene therapy that blocks vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), a protein that plays a central role in the development of the disease, may be a safe treatment, according to a study published yesterday (May 16) in the [*Lancet*](#).

Researchers at Johns Hopkins...enrolled 19 patients over age 50 with advanced wet AMD and divided subjects into five groups that received different doses of the gene.

“Even at the highest dose, the treatment was quite safe. We found there were almost no adverse reactions in our patients,” study coauthor Peter Campochiaro, a professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University, said in a [statement](#). The injections reduced fluid levels and improved vision in six participants.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Gene Therapy for Age-Related Macular Degeneration Safe in Humans](#)