

Study treatment  
emergent adverse  
events. nightstarx  
limited hopes



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Study NCT03116113 began in July of 2017 and looked at the safety and efficacy of AAV vector expression in patients with XLRP caused by mutation in the RPGR-ORF15 gene.

Preclinical studies showed successful therapeutic effect of AAV vectors in proof-of-concept studies of XLRP canine models (34), and the studies showed no toxicity in biodistribution and toxicology tests. In this study, a team from the University of Pennsylvania created AAV vectors carrying RPGRorf15 cDNA and conducted an efficacy study in RPGR knock-out mouse. (35) Vectors were subretinally injected into the knockout mouse at varying doses and they were then monitored for retinal function and changes by ERG and OCT.

They found preservation of retinal structure and function both with mouse and human RPGRorf15 vector administration, and OCT showed preservation of the outer layer in vector-injected retina. Now in this human trial, 15 males 18 or older with XLRP caused by mutations in RPGR have been recruited to be treated with a single, subretinal administration of a low dose of AAV-RPGR in the affected eye. Two other cohorts of 5 patients each will test the medium and high doses. Success of the study will be measured by low incidences of dose limiting toxicities and incidences of treatment emergent adverse events. NightstarX Limited hopes to release results of this trial by 2019.

(40) Study NCT03252847 is similar to the previous trial in that it looks at the safety and efficacy of subretinal administration of AAV with XLRP caused by mutations in RPGR. This trial, however, focuses on AAV2/5-hRKp. RPGR and compares both adults and children by recruiting 36 participants of young and

adult men. They will be divided into 3 cohorts with low, intermediate, or high subretinal dosages of the vector, respectively.

Success of the study will be measured by low incidence of adverse events related to subretinal administration of AAV-RPGR, and this safety component is defined as the absence of ATIMP-related safety events; Dr. James Bainbridge at UCL and MeiraGTx hopes to release results of this trial by 2020. (41) Study NCT03374657, though it doesn't start until 2018, looks at the maximum tolerated dose of a recombinant AAV8 vector called CPK850, as determined by the single ascending dose ranging portion of the study. They also want to look at the safety and potential efficacy of the vector on possibly improving visual function in patients with RBP1 RP due to biallelic mutations in RBP1 gene.

They recruited 15 participants ranging in age from 18-70, and formed five cohorts in ascending dosage level of the subretinal injection to the study eye. Success of the study will be measured by low number of participants with adverse events, serious adverse events, and deaths. It will also be measured by a high number of responders in dark adaptation. Novartis Pharmaceuticals hopes to release results of this trial by 2025. (42) Study NCT03326336, which also doesn't start until 2018, hopes to look at the safety and tolerability of a recombinant AAV vector drug product derived from rAAV2.

7m8 named GS030-DP (drug product) after being administered via intravitreal injection and repeated light stimulation using their patented device in patients with non-syndromic RP. This is different from all other

trials, as they are not only studying patients with non-syndromic RP, but they are studying intravitreal injection. Administration of AAV into the vitreous has not been previously successful as it is difficult for the viral vectors to reach the target bleb in the outer retinal layer, as the viscous vitreous fluid often prevents much of the vectors from reaching the target location. Subretinal injections, however, allow for a specific injection directly into the targeted location. Unfortunately, subretinal injection causes posterior vitreous detachment and is many-folds more invasive of a procedure than intravitreal injections, as the former often requires local anesthesia whereas the latter can be done in an office setting in the period of 5-10 minutes. This trial recruited 18 participants ranging from 18-75 years old, and divided into four groups, with the first three groups containing three patients each at ascending dosages, and the last group containing 3-9 participants at the highest well-tolerated dose, as determined by results from the previous three groups.

Success of the study will be measured by the safety and tolerability of the GS030 treatment after 1 year. GenSight Biologics hopes to release results of this trial by 2024. (43) Lastly, study NCT033281 focuses on the safety and efficacy of AAV2/5 hPDE6B subretinal injection in patients with RP arising from mutations in the PDE6B gene. This is the only RP study looking at mutations in the PDE6B gene. If successful, the study will be measured by low incidences of ocular and non-ocular adverse events. They recruited 12 participants, all 18 years of age or older, and administered the lowest dose of AAV2/5-hPDE6B vector into one cohort and highest dose into the second

cohort. The third cohort will receive unilateral, subretinal administration of the confirmatory dose.

Horama S. A. hopes to release results of this trial by 2022. (44) There have also been other clinical trials not currently listed on [clinicaltrials.org](https://clinicaltrials.org) and some of which target slightly different aspects of RP than we are focusing on. In the first clinical safety study (NCT01482195), six patients received submacular injection of AAV2-VMD2-hMERTK, and three patients displayed significant improvement.

(36) Two years after treatment, however, the improvement declined and retinal thickness did not improve. In another clinical study (NCT02341807), researchers used AAV5, which has a higher tropism for photoreceptors than the previously used AAV2, and found improvements in retinal thickness. (37) Lastly, ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) has been studied for photoreceptor degeneration inhibition, which can delay ganglion death through AAV delivery and delay vision loss. Phase I (NCT00063765) confirmed its safety, and phase II for early RP (NCT00447980) and late RP (NCT00447993) are currently underway. (38) AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss (visual acuity 20/2000 or worse) in the developed world.

It is different from LCA and RP, which are mainly inherited diseases, AMD is greatly affected by older age, smoking, diet and exercise, in conjunction with race and genetics. as smoking doubles the risk Etiology: risk factors interplay to modify the Bruch membrane/choroid complex, RPE, and photoreceptor cells. The mechanism of development is not fully understood,

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but we do know the process of neovascularization is driven by the upregulation of angiogenic cytokines, specifically VEGF.

(for wet) most likely to occur after age 50 It destroys the macula (sharp, central vision)