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Scientists identify for the first time the genes that cause blindness produced by corneal oedema

19.09.2008

> nächste Meldung >

Scientists of the University of Granada (Spain) and the San Cecilio Teaching Hospital (Granada) have determined for the first time the causes for the blindness produced by corneal oedema and have identified the genes which cause it.

Anzeige



The research group of Tissue Engineering of the UGR and the San Cecilio University Hospital, who has recently constructed the first complete artificial cornea, has established in a research work which has just been published in the journal 'Experimental Eye Research' new findings related to blindness caused by corneal oedema originated by the alteration of the cell barrier of corneal endothelium. When the endothelial cell barrier is unharmed, the cornea remains dehydrated and transparent.

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> blindness > corneal endothelium > corneal oedema > endothelial cells > genes

therefore, the loss of transparency and the resulting blindness. The research carried out in the University of Granada has also determined the genes involved in the control of such process.

Such recent findings suggest new treatments for corneal oedema. The scientists explain that maybe in the not too distant future it will be possible to use eye drops which provide the ions involved or even the possibility of modifying the affected genes by means of gene therapy, which could mend or palliate some of these alterations.

The authors of the work are Professors Miguel Alaminos, Miguel González Andrades, José Ignacio Muñoz Ávila, Ingrid Garzón, M^a Carmen Sánchez Quevedo and Antonio Campos.

Antonio Marín Ruiz | Quelle: alphagalileo

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