

Ciliary neurotrophic factor - Dry AMD Implant

Ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) is being investigated as a treatment for dry AMD because it has a potent neuroprotective action; it has been shown to inhibit photoreceptor apoptosis in an animal model of retinal degeneration.

CNTF has been shown to slow photoreceptor degeneration in animal models of retinal degenerations and thus may be effective in protecting photoreceptors in AMD⁽⁷⁶⁾.

A phase II trial utilizes an encapsulated cell technology (ECT) to deliver CNTF to the retina.

The implant is a small capsule that contains human retinal pigment epithelium cells.

These cells have been given the ability to make CNTF and release it through the capsule membrane into the surrounding fluid.

In this study, two different CNTF dose levels will be used: a high dose and a low dose, as well as a sham surgery (or placebo) group⁽⁷⁷⁾.

The cells can survive for approximately 18 months following implantation into the vitreous cavity with a single scleral suture⁽⁷⁸⁾.

The trial, sponsored by Neurotech Pharmaceuticals USA (Lincoln, RI), is ongoing and not recruiting.

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