BioSpectrum the business of Bi
24 years of leveraging the business of Bio
www.biospectrumindia.co

Eyestem completes first set of patient injections for pioneering Dry AMD treatment

10 September 2024 | News

This first in-human trial will involve 36 patients across three ophthalmology centres in India



In a groundbreaking development for ophthalmology research in India, Bengaluru-based cell therapy company Eyestem Research has completed the first set of three patient injections for its RPE suspension therapy for Dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD). This debilitating eye disease is a leading cause of blindness in individuals over 60, impacting an estimated 196 million people globally.

Eyestem's lead product, Eyecyte-RPE, is a patented suspension of retinal pigment epithelium cells aimed at combating geographic atrophy arising from Dry AMD. This pioneering treatment marks a major milestone for Indian biotechnology and the global fight against vision loss, as it has the potential to replace damaged retinal cells.

Led by Dr Rajani Battu, Chief Medical Officer, Eyestem, this first in-human trial will involve 36 patients across three of the most reputable ophthalmology centres in India.

"Completing the first three patient injections of Eyecyte-RPE represents a critical milestone for our quest to find a cure for Dry AMD. With the support of exceptionally skilled surgeons at our trial sites, we are optimistic of translating our research for societal benefit", she said.

In a joint statement, Dr Rajpal Vohra (AIIMS, Delhi), Dr Raja Narayanan (LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad), Dr Rushikesh Naigonkar (Ganpati Netralaya, Jalna), and Dr Rohan Chawla (AIIMS, Delhi), retinal surgeons involved in the study, said "Dry AMD and associated vision loss present a massive burden on patients in India and abroad. We are excited about supporting this research which has the potential of helping such patients. It is a matter of great pride that such an innovation is coming out of India for the world and hope that this is the start of a new age of medicine where India leads the way."