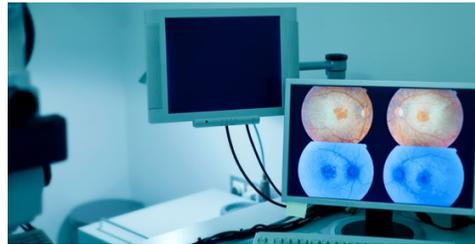


Partners

EUROCONDOR brings together a group of 17 leading research and field partners across Europe, including a biopharmaceutical SME and a pan-European diabetes association. The project is coordinated by the Vall d'Hebrón Institute of Research (VHIR).

EUROCONDOR started on 1 March 2012 and is scheduled to end on 28 February 2016.



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The clinical centres involved in EUROCONDOR are all members of **EVICR - the European Vision Institute Clinical Research Network**, a disease-oriented network in ophthalmology that respects the highest standards of quality and that is ICH-GCP compliant.



Preserving eyesight

EUROCONDOR - European consortium for the early treatment of diabetic retinopathy : Leading European ophthalmologists, endocrinologists and basic researchers join forces to implement the first clinical trial using eye drops for the early treatment of diabetic retinopathy.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 278040



About Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is an eye disease that occurs in people living with diabetes, which can ultimately lead to severe loss of vision and even blindness.

DR is the leading cause of preventable blindness among working-age individuals in developed countries, as well as the most-feared complication of diabetes.

Treatments for DR do exist. However current treatments -such as laser photocoagulation or intravitreal injections of corticosteroids- are only indicated in advanced stages of the disease and are invasive, costly and associated with significant side-effects.

INNOVATIVE EYE-DROP TREATMENT

Growing evidence suggests that retinal neurodegeneration is an early event in the pathogenesis of DR. Therapeutic strategies based on neuroprotection could be effective not only in preventing or arresting retinal neurodegeneration but also in preventing the development and progression of the early stages of diabetic retinopathy.

EUROCONDOR consortium will conduct a clinical trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of a **new therapeutic eye drop treatment based on two neuro-protective drugs: somatostatin and brimonidine for the early stages of diabetic retinopathy.**

Project objectives

EUROCONDOR aims to assess the safety and effectiveness of a new therapeutic eye drop treatment based on neuroprotection. The clinical trial will assess whether the new treatment is effective not only in preventing or stopping retinal neurodegeneration but also in preventing the development and progression of the early stages of diabetic retinopathy.

Primary objective

To assess whether the selected neuroprotective drugs (somatostatin and brimonidine) administered topically as eye drops are able to prevent or stop neurodegeneration, as well as the development and progression of the early stages of DR.

Secondary objectives

- To determine the prevalence of functional abnormalities related to neurodegeneration in those patients without or with minimal microvascular damage under ophthalmoscopic examination.
- To compare the effectiveness of the selected drugs.
- To evaluate the local and systemic adverse effects of the selected drugs.
- To identify those patients most prone to progressive worsening (characterization of phenotypes and circulating biomarkers).
- To determine the molecular mechanisms by which the selected drugs exert their beneficial effects.

Expected outcomes

The main expected outcomes in the case that the EUROCONDOR's objectives are achieved include:

Scientific advancements

- Open a new field of research based on neuroprotection to prevent or stop the development of DR.
- Encourage widespread use in clinical practice of innovative methods (mfERG, FD-OCT) used for the first time in a large cohort of people with diabetes to monitor neurodegeneration.
- Benefit research on other prevalent eye diseases (glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration) where neurodegeneration plays an important role, but also for other neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

Impact on public health

- Reduce the number of people with diabetes who develop DR through prevention, in turn reducing the economic and social burdens of this complication.
- Pave the way for new screening systems that will allow earlier diagnosing of DR, improving care for patients.

Impact on the industry

- Positive impact on SMEs in terms of competitiveness, economic growth and employment in the biomedical sector.
- Engaging with the pharmaceutical industry by triggering the development of new drugs and formulations.