THE EFFECTS AND SYMPTOMS OF CHOROIDEREMIA

CAUSES

The disease is caused by a genetic defect of the X-Chromosome, and thus typically only males suffer the full effects of complete blindness, while females are carriers of the disease. CHM has a 50% chance of passing onto the children of an affected parent, although – due to the defect’s presence on the X-Chromosome affected males cannot pass the disease on to their sons.

CURE

There is currently no cure for Choroideremia, but a gene therapy treatment is now in human clinical trials in the United States, the UK, and in Canada. Individuals wishing to participate in these clinical trials will need to have their diagnosis of CHM verified with a genetic test. The early results from these clinical trials have been very positive, and may soon offer individuals a first ever treatment for CHM.
CHOROIDEREMIA

SYMPTOMS

The first symptom is generally night-blindness, followed by vision loss in the mid-periphery. These “blind spots” appear in an irregular ring, only leaving patches of peripheral vision, while central vision is still maintained. Over time the peripheral vision loss extends in both directions leading to “tunnel vision” and eventually complete loss of sight. The disease affects the retina, which is the area at the back of the eye. CHM is considered a rare disease because it only affects an estimated 1 in 50,000 individuals.

RESEARCH

The Choroideremia Research Foundation was formed in 2000 as a 501(c)3 Non-Profit with the urgent mission to cure blindness caused by Choroidremia (CHM). In 2000 only two researchers were studying the disease. With the Foundation’s help there are now nearly a dozen leading research centers from around the world pursuing a cure for CHM. These accelerated efforts have lead directly to current testing of a first ever treatment designed to stop vision loss caused by CHM, which is underway in the US, UK, and Canada. This new treatment could help pave the way for similar treatments in many other blinding diseases.

There is now real hope for a cure within the next few years, and with your help we can ensure that no one needs to go blind from CHM. CURECHM.ORG

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