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**Tests show new drug restores** **sight to blind**  
  
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A new drug has reversed sight loss in sufferers of an eye condition passed down through families, giving hope to thousands that they could be spared blindness.

A clinical trial has found that a quarter of patients who took idebenone for 24 weeks enjoyed such improved vision that they were able to read an entire row of letters on a standard chart.

British researchers say it is the first evidence of a treatment that can reverse the effects of a mitochondrial disorder, affecting the energy factories of the eye's cells.

The drug, manufactured by Santhera Pharmaceuticals, will now be assessed by European regulators.