

Eye Study of Patients with Spinal Cerebellar Ataxia (SCA)

Dr. Vinod Mootha, M.D. is an ophthalmologist trying to learn more about how SCA can affect the eye. The purpose of the research study is to learn more about how SCA can affect the cornea, or the front “window” of the eye.

What is Fuchs’ dystrophy?

Fuchs’ dystrophy is an aging disease that involves the endothelium or the innermost layer of the cornea. These aging changes start to appear in affected patients of age 40 and over and can result in swelling of the cornea.

How are SCA and Fuchs’ dystrophy related?

We want to learn if patients with SCA develop Fuchs’ dystrophy. It has been determined that both diseases are genetically passed down through families in a similar way and, thus, learning more about one disorder can help us learn more about the genetics of the other and vice versa.

What all is involved in Dr. Mootha’s genetics research study?

The study recruitment process is a one-time study visit to Dr. Mootha’s eye clinic in the Aston building at UT Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas. The visit involves the following:

- Eye exam of the front and back of the eye with dilation drops
- Photo imaging of the front of the eyes
- One-time blood draw to study DNA

Why contribute to studying these diseases?

While there is no reimbursement for your participation, we will share your eye exam findings with you. Your help is greatly appreciated and know that your time and effort put forth into this study visit are going toward helping future generations with these disorders.

How can you participate?

Please call Department of Ophthalmology’s Research Study Coordinator Aimee Fuerte at: 214-645-2012 or email her at aimee.fuerte@utsouthwestern.edu to set up an appointment.