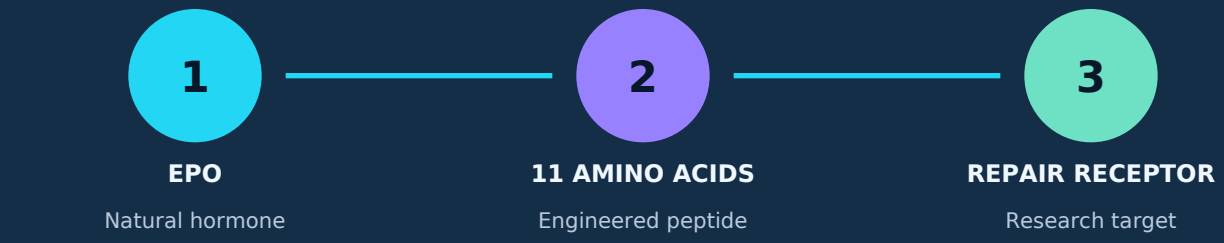
EPISODE 07 / NERVE-REPAIR RESEARCH

ARA-290: Can scientists activate repair signals?

Also called cibinetide, ARA-290 is an experimental 11-amino-acid peptide inspired by erythropoietin, a hormone your body naturally produces.



Conceptual pathway, not a proven clinical outcome.

What makes it different?

It was designed to engage a cellular signaling system called the innate repair receptor. Researchers are investigating whether this can influence inflammatory responses and tissue-repair processes without stimulating red-blood-cell production.

Why study tiny nerves?

Small-fiber neuropathy affects tiny nerves involved in pain, temperature sensation and automatic body functions. Human studies have investigated ARA-290 in nerve problems associated with sarcoidosis and type 2 diabetes.

SARCOIDOSIS

Small-fiber nerve loss

TYPE 2 DIABETES

Neuropathy research

THE TAKEAWAY: The goal is to investigate repair-related signaling, not to claim a proven cure for nerve damage.

WHAT HUMAN STUDIES HAVE FOUND

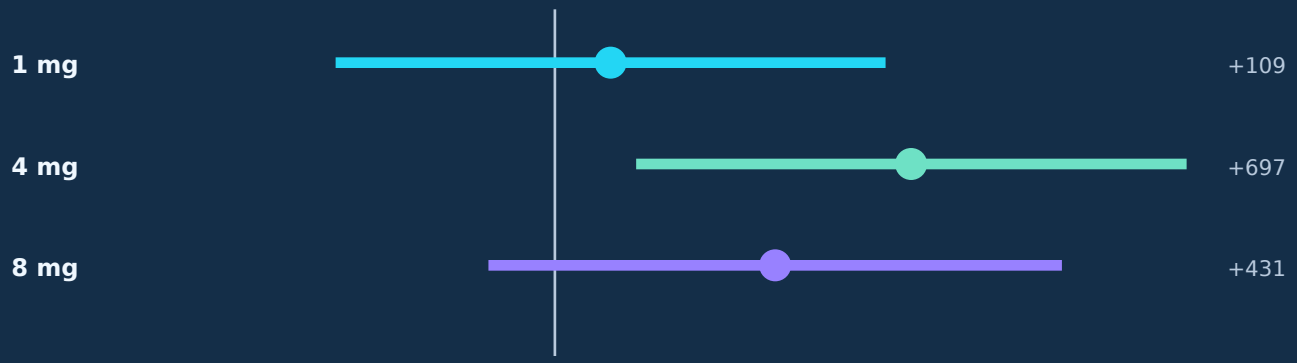
64 people. 28 days. One promising nerve marker.

A randomized Phase 2b study enrolled people with sarcoidosis-related small nerve-fiber loss and neuropathic pain. Researchers used specialized eye imaging to measure tiny corneal nerve fibers.

64	28	4
participants	days	trial groups

CHANGE IN CORNEAL NERVE-FIBER AREA VS PLACEBO

Mean difference with 95% confidence interval, square micrometers



Only the 4 mg arm clearly separated from placebo.

What does this mean?

In the 4 mg study group, the measured corneal nerve-fiber area improved relative to placebo. The 1 mg and 8 mg groups did not show a statistically clear difference on that main measure. Pain improvements occurred in placebo recipients too, so this does not prove pain relief.

What is still unknown?

Larger and longer studies are needed to determine whether the findings lead to meaningful, lasting improvements in symptoms or nerve function. ARA-290 is not FDA-approved. An FDA substance identifier or orphan-drug designation is not approval.

Interesting results. Important open questions.

The studies are meaningful early signals, but the next step would be larger, independently replicated trials measuring outcomes people actually feel.

SARCOIDOSIS

Small-fiber nerve loss

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What researchers know

The peptide was designed to engage a repair-associated receptor. Small human studies have measured changes in nerve markers and symptoms. The strongest corneal nerve-fiber result appeared in one treatment group in a 64-person trial.

What researchers still need to learn

Whether the nerve-marker change translates to lasting symptom improvement, what happens with longer follow-up, and how consistently findings replicate across independent research groups.

Regulatory status

Investigational; not FDA-approved. A substance registry listing or orphan designation does not establish approval.

SOURCE STUDIES & REFERENCE

Culver et al. (2017), 64-person Phase 2b trial: PubMed 28475703.

Brines et al. (2015), type 2 diabetes and neuropathy: PubMed 25387363.

Innate repair receptor review: PubMed 29392190. FDA substance registry: Cibinetide.

Educational overview only. No dosing or treatment recommendations.