

# Key Protein Identified as Hair Growth Aid in Animal Study

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Many people know that protein is a key component of hair. But researchers recently discovered that a special kind of protein plays a critical role in skin function and hair growth, according to a study published in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, reported by [ScienceDaily](#).

That protein, called N-WASP, triggers hair growth by promoting hair follicle cycling controlled by hair follicle progenitor cells.

Progenitor cells are types of stem cells (specialized cells that have self-renewal or regenerative properties).

For the study, researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston analyzed mice lacking the N-WASP protein in their skin. The analysis showed that the mice needed this protein for rapid skin cell regeneration and hair growth.

Researchers also found that N-WASP protein controlled the function of a gene-regulating protein (beta-catenin) located in the skin's outer layer.

Study authors suggested that the relationship between the two proteins supports the division of the special stem cells responsible for hair growth.

Read RH's "[Black Hair Growth](#)," which dispels the myth that black hair can't grow long and strong.

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