

**Study: Gene-targeted drug could help heart patients**

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By Steve Sternberg

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A drug touted as the first gene-targeted heart therapy reduced hospitalizations and deaths when given to heart failure patients with a specific genetic profile, researchers said Monday.

The drug, bucindolol, was dropped by its maker nearly a decade ago after it failed to top a placebo in a 2,700-patient study.

But a new study of roughly 1,000 patients shows that it works more effectively than the standard drugs in its class in patients with "favorable" genetic features. Scientists have also developed a genetic test that predicts which patients will benefit most from the drug.

For complete article, click [here](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-09-22-gene-bucindolol-heart_N.htm) [hotlink to [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-09-22-gene-bucindolol-heart\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-09-22-gene-bucindolol-heart_N.htm)]