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Warning in eyes

PARIS: Australian scientists are reporting encouraging early results from an eye test they hope will create a simple way to detect signs of Alzheimer's disease.

The test is experimental and needs more study, but doctors know that Alzheimer's causes changes in the eyes, not just the brain.

Other researchers in the US also are working on an eye test for the disease.

"It's a small study but suggestive and encouraging," one of the American researchers, Lee Goldstein of Boston University, said of the Australian work.

"My hat's off to them for looking outside the brain for other areas where we might see other evidence of this disease.

The CSIRO's Shaun Frost discussed the test yesterday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in France.