



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Osteoarthritis Breakthrough: 15-PGDH Protein

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**Context:** Researchers at **Stanford University** identified a "gerozyme" (aging enzyme) called **15-PGDH** as a master regulator of cartilage loss.

- **The Discovery:** As we age, 15-PGDH levels increase, breaking down the molecules that repair cartilage.
- **New Treatment:** By using an **inhibitor** to block this protein, scientists successfully regrew healthy articular cartilage in mice.
- **Future Impact:** This offers a potential alternative to knee and hip replacements, shifting the focus from "pain management" to "tissue regeneration."

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