

# German Herald

## 15% Rabatt auf Spielwaren!

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called retinoic acid - essential to the process - through the entire regeneration procedure to map out just how new body parts grow.

"It is a huge success for us. Up till now no-one has really looked at what the actual function of this acid is," said research leader Gerrit Begemann.

The acid is produced in all animals - including humans - through vitamin A and, in the fish, tricks the body into producing a mass of cells underneath a lost fin which then take on the genetic identity of the missing part.

But it could be decades before scientists learn how to apply the technique to humans, who lose the ability to regrow tissue through retinoic acid as young children.

"Children under five or six, for example, who lose part of their finger up to the first knuckle can regenerate them. As long as you don't sew the wound up and just clean it.

"But we don't know why we lose that ability so young in life. Ultimately we want to know why. The application for humans is a long way away, unfortunately," explained Professor Begemann.

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