The relatively high concentrations of arsenic detected in lens after chronic exposure to arsenate in drinking water supports the hypothesis that human exposure to elevated levels of As in drinking water could induce oxidative stress in the lens and be a contributing factor in lens opacification.

Sources of arsenic:
- Environment
  - Ground water, soil
  - Air pollution
- Industry
  - Smelters
  - Power plants
  - Treated wood
  - Pottery, glass
  - Pesticides, rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides
- Medicine (arsenic trioxide)
- Food
  - Fish, shellfish
  - Seaweed
  - Food such as rice that are produced where soil and/or water are contaminated with arsenic

Chronic exposure to arsenic in drinking water was related to the occurrence of pterygium, and the association was still observed after adjusting for exposures to sunlight and sandy environments. Pterygium is a fibro vascular growth of the bulbar conjunctiva and underlying subconjunctival tissue that may cause blindness.