AMD treatment AVA-101 demonstrates positive top line phase 2a results

AVA-101, in development as a subretinal gene therapy injection for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration, showed an improvement on best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) compared with the control group and a positive trend in response rate (stable vision with few rescue injections) in a phase 2a study, developer Avalanche Biotechnologies (Menlo Park, Calif.) said in a news release. It met the primary safety and tolerability endpoint as well.

In the study, BCVA mean change from baseline showed a difference of 11.5 letters between AVA-101 (+2.2 letters) and control groups (-9.3 letters). Additionally, a significant number of AVA-101 treated subjects (42.9%) improved or maintained stable vision with 2 or fewer rescue injections compared with subjects in the control group (9.1%). Importantly, BCVA improvement of at least 10 letters with 2 or fewer rescue injections was observed in 23.8% of treated subjects and none of the control group patients.

The phase 2a study enrolled 32 subjects age 55 or older with wet AMD and randomized them to an AVA-101 treatment group (n=21) or a control group (n=11). Subjects in both groups received 2 ranibizumab injections at day 0 and week 4.