

NAION study begins next phase in India

The first patient in India has been randomized in a pivotal global phase 2/3 study of QPI-1007, a novel small interfering RNA (siRNA) drug for the treatment of acute non-arteritic ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION), developers Biocon (Bangalore, India) and Quark Pharmaceuticals (Fremont, California) said in a press release. QPI-1007 is a double stranded RNA molecule chemically modified by Quark's proprietary technology. The drug is designed to temporarily inhibit the expression of caspase 2 and thereby block the apoptotic death of retinal ganglion cells. QPI-1007 is being developed as a neuroprotectant for the treatment of NAION and in the future other optic neuropathies such as glaucoma that result in the death of retinal ganglion cells. QRK207 is a pivotal, randomized, double-masked, sham-controlled trial of QPI-1007 delivered by multi-dose intravitreal injections to subjects with acute NAION to compare the safety and efficacy of 2 doses of QPI-1007 along with the sham group. The multinational, multi-centric trial is being conducted across 95 centers in Australia, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, and the U.S. Approximately 465 patients will be enrolled globally.