A new ocular melanoma therapy

Initial testing cleared by the FDA for a new ocular melanoma therapy.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared the new, investigational drug application for Aura Biosciences' light-activated AU-011 (Cambridge, Massachusetts), a therapy to treat ocular melanoma. The drug is part of a new class of therapies focused on targeting and selectively destroying cancer cells using viral nanoparticle conjugates, according to the company. "Early detection of ocular melanoma, combined with the administration of AU-011 as a potential vision-sparing therapy, could transform the treatment of patients with this devastating disease," said Brian Marr, MD, director of the Ophthalmic Oncology Service, Columbia University Medical Center, New York. Dr. Marr is a member of Aura's Clinical Advisory Board and the principal investigator for the AU-011 clinical trial, according to a company press release. The Phase 1b clinical trial is currently enrolling patients and is designed to analyze the safety, immunogenicity, and preliminary efficacy of two dose levels of AU-011 to treat small-to-medium primary ocular melanoma. Screening for eligible patients is taking place at five clinical sites around the U.S., according to Aura Biosciences.