

Retinal detachment drug granted orphan drug status

The Food and Drug Administration has granted orphan drug designation to ONL1204, a novel, first-in-class small molecule peptide designed to protect key retinal cells from cell death, for the treatment of retinal detachment, developer ONL Therapeutics (Ann Arbor, Michigan) said in a news release. ONL Therapeutics expects to advance ONL1204 into clinical trials for retinal detachment patients in 2016. ONL1204 will be delivered to patients upon diagnosis and is intended to block photoreceptor cells from dying until surgery can be completed.