

**Presented at the American Society of Retinal Specialists (ASRS) Annual Meeting •
Jul 30 – Aug 02, 2025 • Long Beach, CA**

SUPRACHOROIDAL AVORALSTAT, A PLASMA KALLIKREIN INHIBITOR, STOPS VASCULAR LEAKAGE IN A WELL-ESTABLISHED RABBIT MODEL

Dilsher S. Dhoot, MD¹; Charles C. Wykoff, MD, PhD²; David Culp³; Raluca Kubaszky, DVM, PhD, DABT⁴; John Michael Sauer, PhD⁵; Aileen Morgan, MBA⁴; Matthew Campbell, PhD⁶; Raj Maturi, FASRS⁷; Donald S. Fong, MD⁴

¹California Retina Consultants, CA, USA. ²Retina Consultants of Texas, TX, USA. ³Powered Research, NC, USA. ⁴BioCryst Pharmaceuticals Inc., NC, USA. ⁵Smurfit Institute of Genetics, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. ⁶Retina Partners Midwest, IN, USA. ⁷Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine, CA, USA.

Disclosures

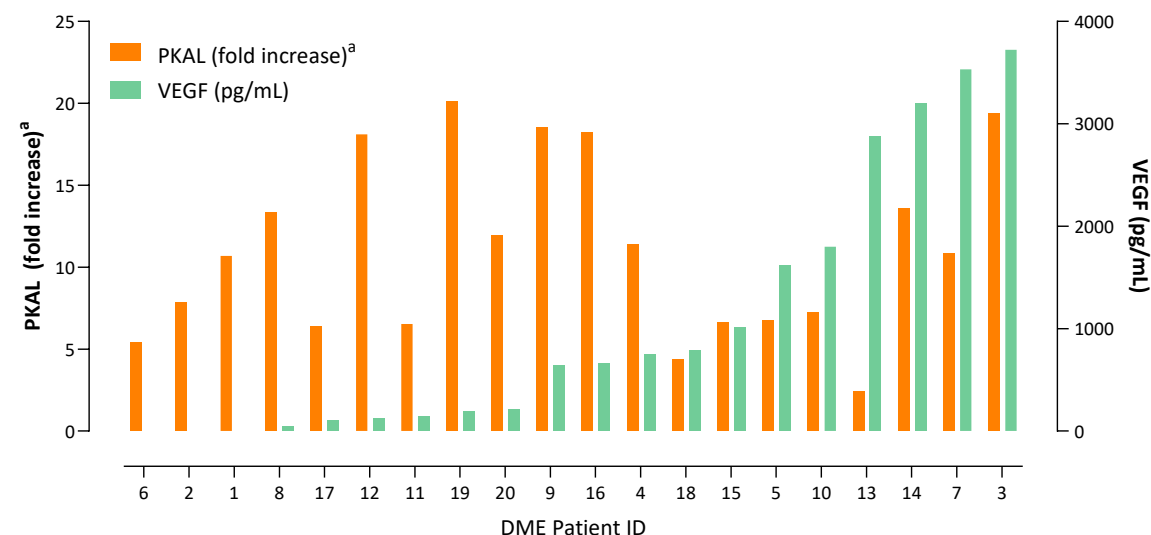
- **Dilsher Dhoot:** Consultant/Advisor for Alcon, Alimera Sciences, Allergan, Annexon, Apellis, Bayer, BioCryst, Coherus, EyePoint, Genentech, IvericBio, Novartis, Ocular Therapeutix, Optos, Outlook, Oxular, Regeneron, REGENXBIO, Roche, Santen.
- **Charles Wycoff:** Consultant for and has accepted grants, consulting fees, and/or contracts from 4DMT, AbbVie, Adverum, AffaMed, Aldeyra, Alexion, Alimera, Alkahest, Allgenesis, Amgen, Annexin, Annexon, Apellis, Ascidian, Asclepix, Astellas, Aviceda, Avirmax, Bayer, BioCryst Pharmaceuticals, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chengdu Origen, Clearside, Curacle, Eluminex, EyeBiotech, EyePoint, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, IONIS, iRENIX, Janssen, Kalaris, Kodiak, Kyoto DDD, Kyowa Kirin, Nanoscope, Neurotech, NGM, Novartis, Ocugen, Ocular Therapeutix, Oculis, OcuTerra, OliX, Opthea, Opus, Outlook Therapeutics, Oxular, Oxurion, Oyster Point, Perceive Bio, Pykus, Regeneron, REGENXBIO, Rezolute, Roche, Sandoz, Shanghai Henlius, Skyline, Stealth, UNITY, Verily, VH401. Member of an advisory board for Kato, Aerie, ASRS, Vit-Buckle Society. Stock options with InGel, Ollin, ONL, Osanni, Panther, PolyPhotonix, RecensMedical, TissueGen, Visgenx, Vitranu.
- **David Culp:** Consultant for and has accepted fees and/or contracts for preclinical contract research from BioCryst Pharmaceuticals.
- **Matthew Campbell:** Consultant for and receives research grants from BioCryst Pharmaceuticals.
- **Raj Maturi:** Consultant for BioCryst Pharmaceuticals. Received grants and/or contracts for sponsored research studies from Allergan, Genentech, Ophthea, Samsung Bioepis, Graybug, Santen, Thrombogenics, Gyroscope, Gemini, Boehringer Ingelheim, Allegro, Senju, Ribomic, NGM, Unity, Graybug, Clearside, Avecida, 4DMT, Ocular, Ocugen, Ocugenix, REGENXBIO. Has accepted consulting fees from Allegro, Allergan, Aviceda, Allgenesis, Eli Lilly, Dutch Ophthalmic, Novartis, Neurotech, Jaeb Center for Health Research, Unity, REGENXBIO. Member of an advisory board for Aviva, REGENXBIO.
- **John Michael Sauer:** Former employee of BioCryst Pharmaceuticals. Patent planned, issued, or pending for Avoralstat/DME provisional application field. Owner of AMGN stock.
- **Raluca Kubaszky, Aileen Morgan, and Donald S. Fong:** Employees of BioCryst Pharmaceuticals.

VEGF Inhibitors Not Fully Effective in DME

Plasma kallikrein (pKal) inhibition is an alternate approach for treating diabetic macular edema (DME)

- Persistent DME occurs in ~40% treated with VEGF (Protocol T)¹
- Kallikrein-bradykinin system is one alternate pathway
- Elevated plasma kallikrein enzyme measured in DME vitreous samples²
- Previous trials failed due to insufficient kallikrein inhibition from
 - Insufficient dose
 - Poor retinal penetration

Elevated pKal in Vitreous of DME Patients



^aRelative to mean of control subjects with macular hole

All DME patients in study showed elevated pKal, but only a subset had elevated VEGF relative to non-DME patients²

PKAL, Plasma Kallikrein; VEGF, Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor.

¹Bressler et al. *JAMA Ophthalmol.* 2018;136(3):257-269

²Adapted and digitized from Kita et al. *Diabetes.* 2015;64(10):3588-3599

Kallikrein-Bradykinin is an Alternate Pathway in DME

Avoralstat could reduce edema by blocking bradykinin production

Diabetes damages retinal vascular endothelium

Avoralstat is a small molecule that can reach the retina from the suprachoroidal space

Avoralstat

↑ Plasma
Kallikrein

Bradykinin

↑ Permeability

leads to

Leakage and Edema

- Bradykinin is a known factor in vascular permeability/edema
- Studies show kallikrein-bradykinin system also mediates VEGF-driven retinal thickening¹

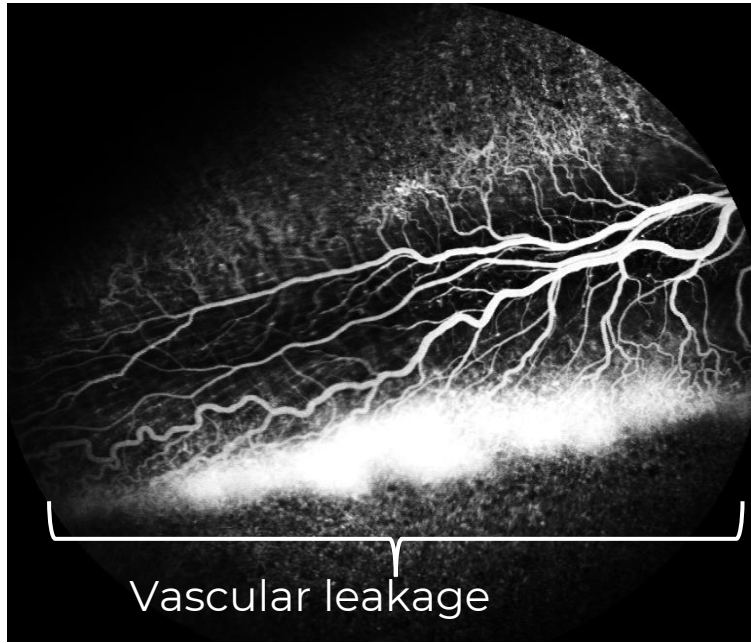
DME, diabetic macular edema

¹Clermont et al. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2016;57(6):2390-2399

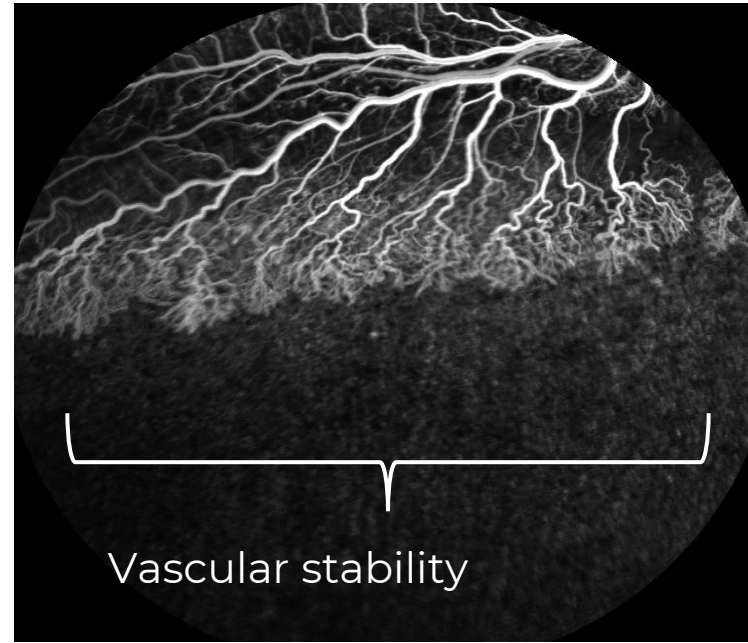
ASRS 2025 Long Beach

Suprachoroidal Avoralstat Stops Retinal Leakage in DL-AAA Rabbit Model

Pre Dose

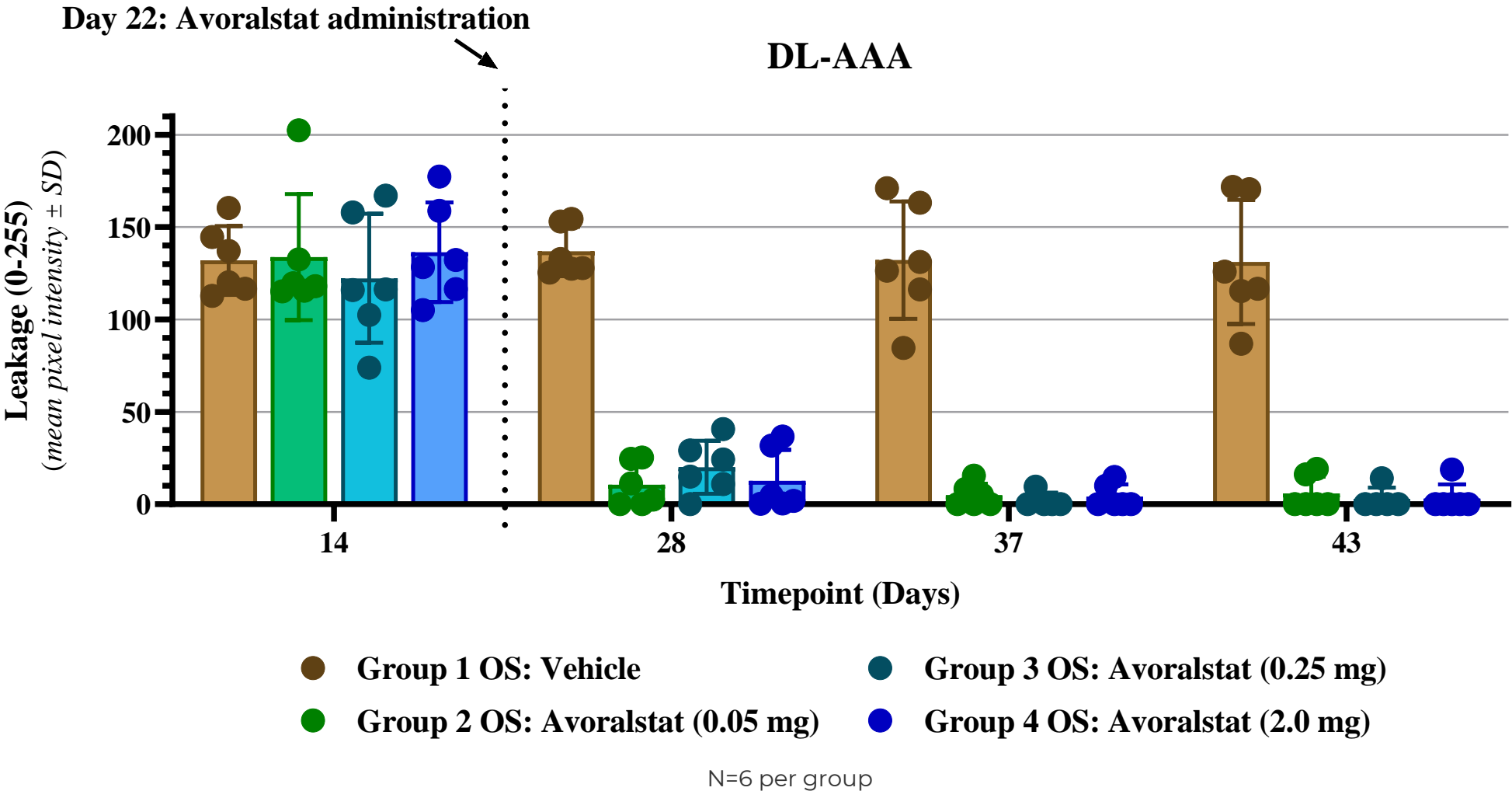


7 Days Post (2mg)



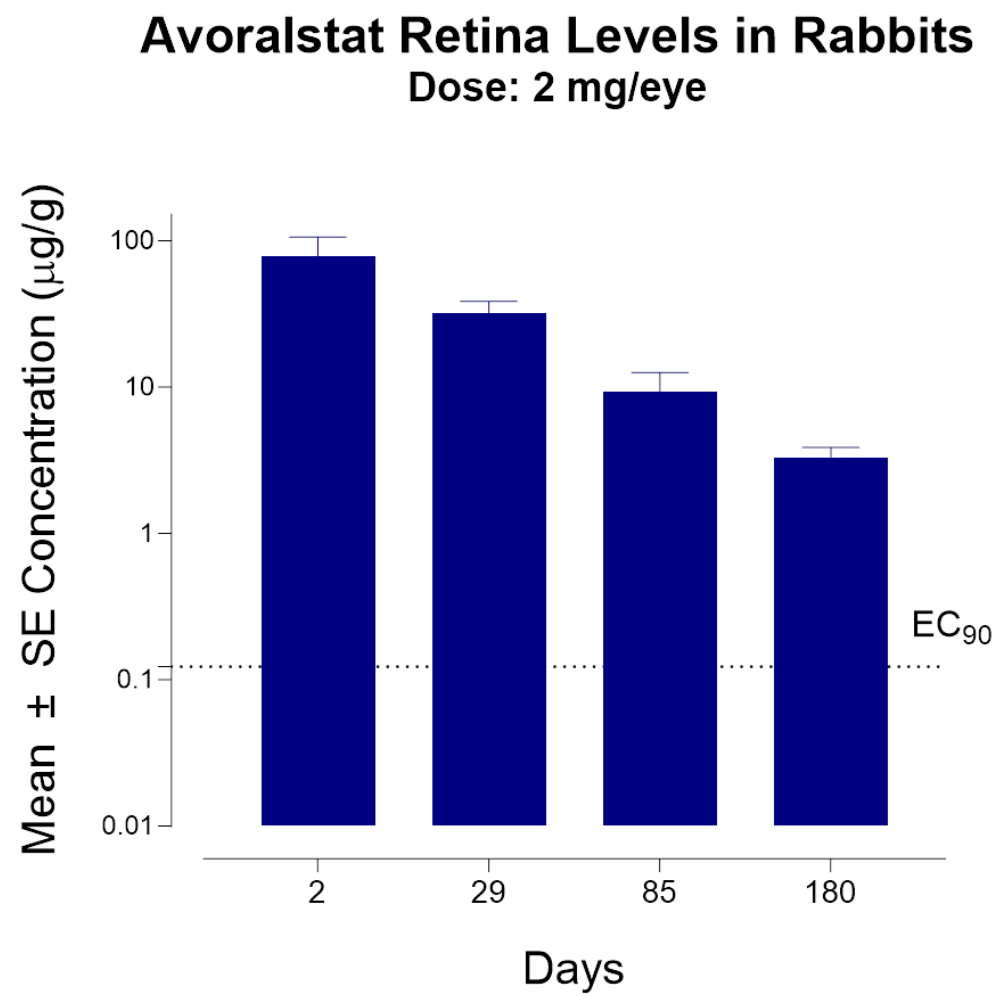
DL-AAA, DL-2-Aminoadipic Acid, glial cell toxin.

Resolution of Leakage by Quantitative Fluorescein Angiography



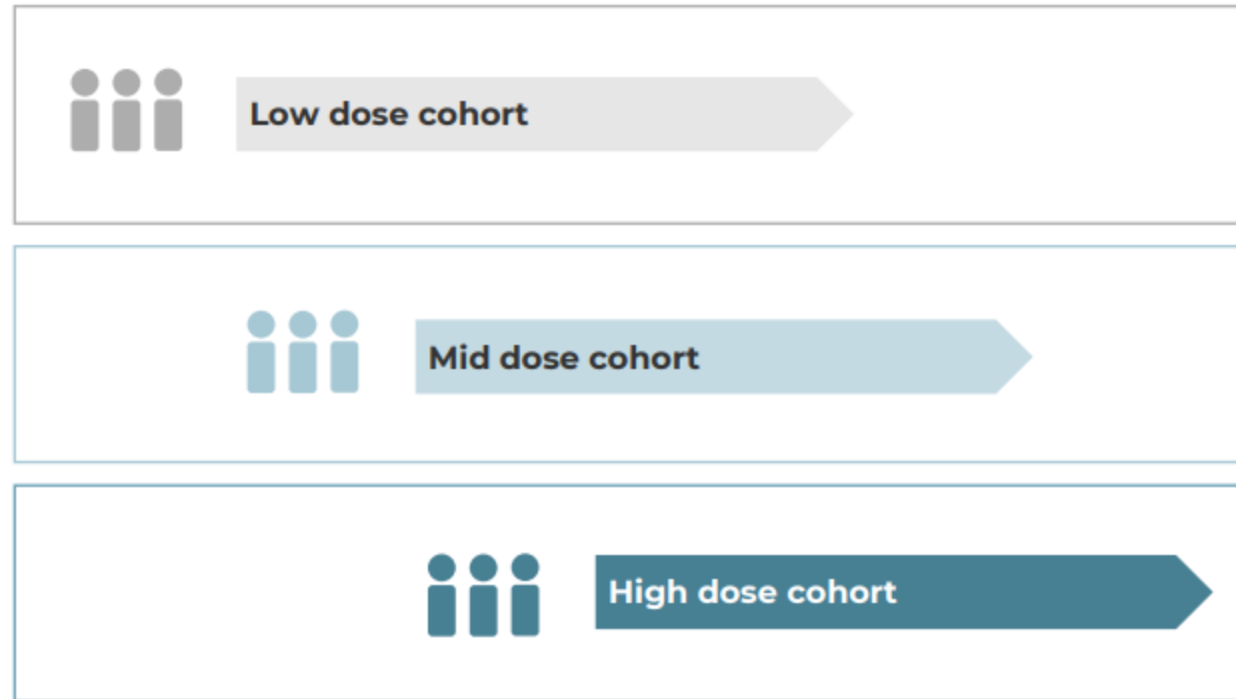
DL-AAA, DL-2-Aminoadipic Acid, glial cell toxin; OS, Left eye; SD, standard deviation.

Avoralstat Shows Durability in Rabbit Through 180 days



SE, standard error
EC₉₀ The concentration of a drug that leads to 90% maximal response

Phase 1b Open-Label Study Design



- **Single dose**
- **24-week follow-up**
- **Data collected every 4 weeks**
 - Safety
 - Central subfield thickness
 - BCVA
- **Enrollment:**
 - Newly diagnosed patients
 - Patients previously treated with anti-VEGF

Conclusions

- VEGF inhibitors are not effective in all DME patients and suggests alternate pathway
- Kallikrein-bradykinin pathway can lead to edema
- Avoralstat, by blocking kallikrein-bradykinin pathway, stops vascular leakage in rabbit model
- Suprachoroidal avoralstat has potential durability of 6 months
- Phase 1b study is recruiting DME patients in Australia

THANK YOU

ddhoot@yahoo.com