

AstraZeneca

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Double boost from European and US regulators for AstraZeneca's lung infection treatment

AstraZeneca PLC's (LON:AZN) has been given a double shot in the arm this morning in its bid to bring to market a drug designed to treat a common lung infection in children.

The FTSE 100 group is developing MEDI8897 as a treatment for a respiratory syncytial virus - a major cause of lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) which affects around 90% of children under two.

READ: Astra's severe asthma treatment granted BTDA recent phase IIb trial showed that children treated with the drug were less likely to suffer from LRTI caused by RSV.

Delivering the first bit of good news was the US Food and Drug Administration which granted the treatment breakthrough therapy designation.

A BTDA is designed to expedite the development and review of medicines that are intended to treat a serious and have shown promise in early-stage clinical trials.

On top of that, MEDI8897 has also been granted access to PRIME - an initiative launched by the European Medicines Agency back in 2016 which is also designed to accelerate the development of drugs so they can reach patients faster.

EMA give their backing
To be eligible for PRIME, medicines must target an unmet medical need and show potential benefit for patients based on early clinical data.

This is the first time that any of Astra's drugs have received PRIME eligibility since the initiative's inception.

"MEDI8897 is our next-generation preventive medicine for respiratory syncytial virus, which has the potential to address an important unmet need for infants, families and caregivers," said Mene Panaglos, AstraZeneca's executive vice president of R&D BioPharmaceuticals.

"The Breakthrough Therapy Designation, together with its recent PRIME eligibility from the European Medicines Agency, will help us to bring MEDI8897 to all infants at risk for RSV as quickly as possible."

AstraZeneca shares edged 7p higher to 5,575p early on Tuesday.

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Price: £71.27

Market Cap: £93.5 billion

1 Year Share Price Graph



Share Information

Code: AZN

Listing: LSE

52 week High Low
7583 5312

Sector: Pharma & Biotech

Website: www.astrazeneca.com

Company Synopsis:

AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, with a broad range of medicines designed to fight disease. AstraZeneca has over 67,000 employees and operates in over 100 countries with growing presence in important emerging markets.

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