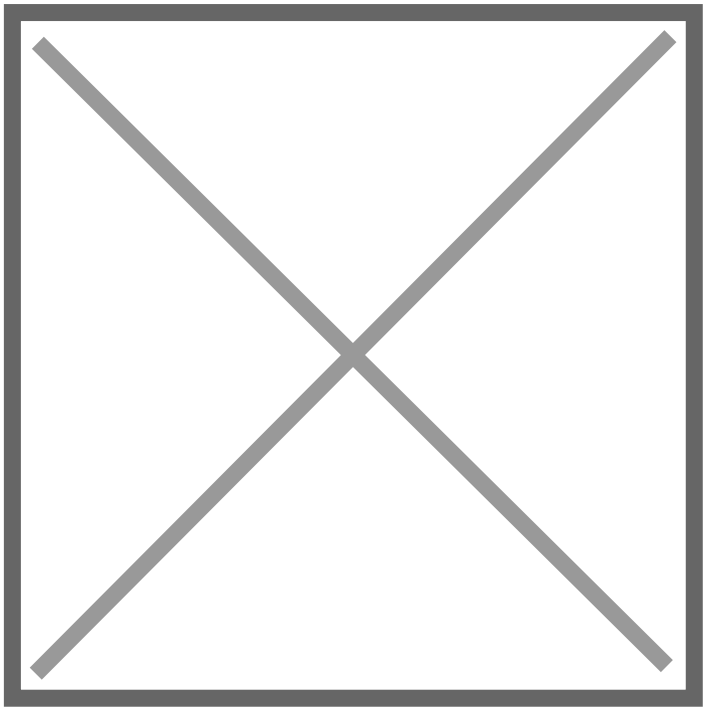
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European Commission approves BMS' Daklinza for Hepatitis C

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Today's approval allows for the marketing of Daklinza in all 28 Member States of the EU, said the company's press statement.

Daklinza is a potent, pan-genotypic NS5A replication complex inhibitor (in vitro), for use in combination with other medicinal products across genotypes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

This molecule when used in combination with Sofosbuvir, is an all-oral, interferon-free regimen that provided cure rates of up to 100 percent in clinical trials, including patients with advanced liver disease, genotype 3 and those who have previously failed treatment with protease inhibitors.

This product is said to be the first NS5A complex inhibitor approved in the European Union (EU) and will be available for use in combination with other medicinal products, providing a shorter treatment duration (12 or 24 weeks) compared to 48 weeks of treatment with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.

"The eradication of HCV is in sight, and with today's approval, Daklinza, in combination with other agents, will be an important option to achieve cure across many HCV genotypes and patient types for those in the EU who are in dire need of new treatment choices," said Mr Emmanuel Blin, head of worldwide commercialization, Bristol-Myers Squibb.

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"We are proud to have discovered, developed and now brought to market this first-in-class NS5A replication complex inhibitor. We look forward to our continued work with EU health authorities to ensure Daklinza-based regimens are available to patients as quickly as possible," he expressed.

The marketing authorization for Daklinza follows an accelerated assessment by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), a designation that is granted to new medicines of major public health interest.

"HCV is a challenging virus to overcome, requiring multiple modes of attack. With the approval of Daklinza, we have a new class of drug that disrupts the virus in two ways - by inhibiting both viral replication and assembly - and when combined with other compounds often results in cure among even the hardest-to-treat patients," said Mr Michael P Manns, MD, professor and chairman, department of gastroenterology, hepatology, and endocrinology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany.