

Lupin gets marketing approval for Pegfilgrastim biosimilar in India

The Mumbai-based drugmaker will manufacture the drug at its Nagpur-based facility in Maharashtra.



New Delhi: Lupin limited has secured approval to manufacturer and market its biosimilar alternative of onco-supportive therapy, 'pegfilgrastim' in India.

The Mumbai-based drugmaker will manufacture the drug at its Nagpur-based facility in Maharashtra.

Pegfilgrastim is designed to prevent chemotherapy-induced neutropenia (a type of infection-fighting white blood cells) loss. It helps the body produce neutrophils (white blood cells) after chemotherapy to lower the risk of serious infections and fever.

Several drugmakers across the world are racing to launch their respective biosimilars of the innovator brand (Neulasta), whose sales peaked at more than \$5 billion before falling to around \$435 million last year amid increasing competition.

Notably, Lupin's formulation branded as Armlupeg is already approved in the US and has out-licensed its commercial rights to a local biosimilar specialist company, Valorum Biologics.

Among domestic peers, Biocon,Amneal also markets a biosimilar alternative of pegfilgrastim in the US, while Aurobindo Pharma is at the development stage. Ahmedabad-based Zydus Lifesciences, meanwhile, recently acquired a novel alternative through its \$166-million takeover of US-based Assertio Holdings.

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