

Merck stops trial for potential blood thinner

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(AP) -- Shares of Merck & Co. are falling after the drugmaker says it has halted one late-stage trial of a potential blood thinner and will immediately stop giving the drug in another study to patients who have had a stroke.

The Whitehouse Station, N.J., company is studying vorapaxar for the prevention of cardiac events. Patients with acute coronary syndrome will stop taking it in one study because it reached a pre-determined number of medical issues like cardiovascular deaths, heart attacks or strokes.

A second study will continue with about 75 percent of its [patients](#), minus those who had a stroke either before or during the trial.

The company's shares are down \$2.03, or 5.5 percent, to \$35.12 in morning trading.

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