

AstraZeneca in \$560 m deal for respiratory firm

June 10 2013

British drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC says it is to acquire Pearl Therapeutics Inc., a Redwood-City, California-based company involved in therapies for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for at least \$560 million.

The deal—which could involve further payments of up to \$590 million if sales and drug development targets are met—gives AstraZeneca access to new treatments for [respiratory diseases](#).

Savvas Neophytou, an analyst with Panmure Gordon & Co, said Monday the acquisition could give AstraZeneca access to "the holy grail" of respiratory medicine—triple agent therapy for respiratory disease.

Pearl's lead product is PT003 and is used in treating [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)—a progressive disease associated mainly with tobacco smoking, air pollution or occupational exposure. It can cause debilitating bouts of breathlessness.

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