

# Merck: Long-acting diabetes pill works same as its Januvia

September 16 2015, byThe Associated Press

---

Drugmaker Merck & Co. says its experimental Type 2 diabetes drug performed about as well as its older daily pill, Januvia, in a late-stage patient test.

The new drug, once-weekly omarigliptin, reduced study participants' three-month average blood sugar level, called hemoglobin A1C, a fraction more than Januvia.

In patients with an initial hemoglobin A1C level of 8 percent or higher, omarigliptin reduced that by 0.79 percent, versus 0.71 percent with Januvia. Patients generally aim for below 7 percent.

Januvia, a top-selling diabetes medicine, had 2014 sales of \$4 billion. Its U.S. patent expires in 2022.

Omarigliptin is being tested in about 8,000 [patients](#) across 10 late-stage studies, the last step before seeking approval. Merck plans to apply for U.S. approval by year's end and did so last year in Japan.

© 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Merck: Long-acting diabetes pill works same as its Januvia (2015, September 16) retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-09-merck-long-acting-diabetes-pill-januvia.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private
---

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.