

Bristol-Myers' gets early approval of combo cancer treatment

October 1 2015, byThe Associated Press

The first combination of breakthrough drugs that boost the immune system to fight cancer has been approved, giving maker Bristol-Myers Squibb an early lead over competitors testing their own combos in a pharmaceutical gold rush of sorts.

The Food and Drug Administration has given accelerated approval to a regimen combining the New York-based drugmaker's two immuno-oncology drugs, Opdivo and Yervoy, to treat patients with advanced melanoma who have a particular genetic variation.

Together, the drugs slowed or temporarily stopped [cancer progression](#) in 60 percent of patients, versus 11 percent who only received Yervoy, in a study.

But with a list price of up to a quarter-million dollars for the combo treatment, unless insurance plans negotiate huge discounts, many [patients](#) likely won't be able to afford their portion of the cost.

© 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Bristol-Myers' gets early approval of combo cancer treatment (2015, October 1)
retrieved 27 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-10-bristol-myers-early-combo-cancer-treatment.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.