

AstraZeneca says in talks with Acerta Pharma

December 14 2015

British phamaceuticals giant AstraZeneca revealed Monday that it was in discussions over a deal with cancer drug maker Acerta Pharma.

"Further to recent speculation, AstraZeneca confirms that it is exploring potential strategic options with Acerta Pharma," it said in a brief statement issued in response to press speculation.

"There can be no certainty that any transaction will ultimately be entered into, or as to the terms of any transaction."

The Wall Street had reported on Friday that Astra was in advanced talks to buy Dutch firm Acerta for more than \$5.0 billion (4.5 billion euros).

AstraZeneca, which rejected a <u>takeover bid</u> from US giant Pfizer last year, is seeking to rebuild its portfolio of exclusive medicines amid intense competition from generic drugmakers.

Acerta has offices in the Netherlands and the United States. The biotechnology company develops treatments for several types of cancer and <u>autoimmune diseases</u>.

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