

FDA expands use of Pfizer drug for rare form of lung cancer

March 11 2016, by Matthew Perrone

The Food and Drug Administration expanded approval of a Pfizer drug to treat a small subset of lung cancer patients with a rare mutation.

The agency says Xalkori capsules are now approved for patients with the ROS-1 gene mutation, who make up about 1 percent of U.S. patients with non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of the disease.

The twice-a-day drug is part of a new wave of medications that fight disease by targeting specific genes found in certain patients. It was initially approved in 2011 for another subset of [lung cancer patients](#) who have a gene that stimulates tumor growth.

The drug blocks certain proteins found in tumors with genetic mutations, with the aim of slowing cancer spread.

Xalkori posted sales of \$438 million in 2014.

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Citation: FDA expands use of Pfizer drug for rare form of lung cancer (2016, March 11)
retrieved 25 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-03-fda-pfizer-drug-rare-lung.html>

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