

Novartis acquires US pharma research firm Selexys Pharmaceuticals

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Swiss-based pharmaceuticals giant Novartis said Monday it was acquiring Selexys Pharmaceuticals Corp., a US research lab in blood and inflammatory disorders, in a deal costing up to \$665 million (627 million euros).

Selexys specialises in [sickle cell disease](#), an inherited form of anaemia that is most common among people of African descent.

In a statement, Novartis said it exercised rights to buy the company after seeing results from a large trial into a drug to treat pain for people with the disease.

The drug, called SelG1, aims at easing so-called vaso-occlusive pain crises, which happen when sickle-shaped [red blood cells](#) block the flow through blood vessels.

The prototype treatment has just completed the second phase of the three-phase process to test new drugs for safety and effectiveness.

"Sickle cell disease affects millions of people around the world and there are limited therapies available for treatment of vaso-occlusive pain crises, a very common complication of the disease," Bruno Strigini, head of CEO of Novartis Oncology, said in the statement.

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