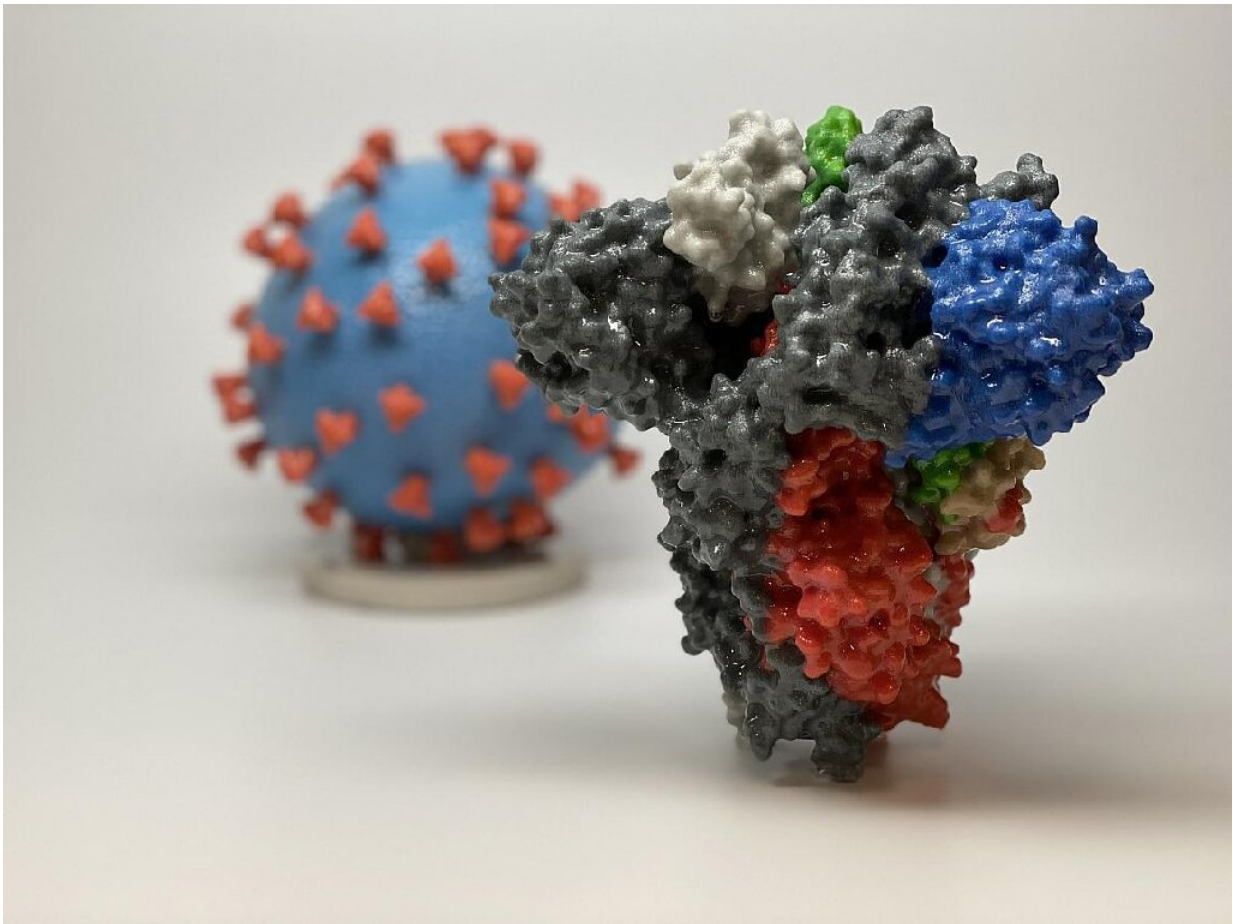


Regeneron COVID-19 treatment enters final stage trials

July 6 2020



A 3D print of a spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, in front of a 3D print of a SARS-CoV-2 virus particle

The pharmaceutical firm Regeneron on Monday announced it was entering the late stages of its human clinical trials investigating a drug to both treat and prevent COVID-19.

The drug, called REGN-COV2, is a combination of two [antibodies](#) that block the coronavirus' "spike protein" which it uses to invade [human cells](#).

The company is moving to the final Phase 3 stage of a trial to determine if its drug can prevent infection among people recently exposed to the virus—for example through a person in their household.

This trial, run jointly with the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), is expected to enroll 2,000 patients in the US.

"We are pleased to collaborate with NIAID to study REGN-COV2 in our quest to further prevent the spread of the virus with an antiviral antibody cocktail that could be available much sooner than a vaccine," said Regeneron President George Yancopoulos.

At the same time, Regeneron announced it was moving to the final stages of a trial to determine the drug cocktail's ability to treat both hospitalized and non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

This will involve around 1,850 hospitalized and 1,050 non-hospitalized patients in the US, Brazil, Mexico and Chile, with preliminary data expected later this summer.

Regeneron scientists evaluated thousands of antibodies harvested from genetically modified mice and from humans, identifying the two they found to be most potent against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, while not competing against each other.

The company uses a multi-antibody strategy to decrease the chances that the virus will mutate in order to evade the blocking action of a single antibody, an approach it detailed in a recent study in *Science*.

Last year, a triple antibody cocktail developed by Regeneron was shown to be effective against the Ebola [virus](#).

© 2020 AFP

Citation: Regeneron COVID-19 treatment enters final stage trials (2020, July 6) retrieved 30 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-regeneron-covid-treatment-stage-trials.html>

<p>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.</p>
--