

Trials for COVID vaccine pill to begin in South Africa

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South Africa has approved a clinical trial for a COVID vaccine pill, Israeli pharmaceutical company Oramed said on Friday.

Its majority-owned subsidiary Oravax Medical has received clearance to begin enrolling patients in the trial of an oral vaccine, the company said

in a statement.

South Africa has hosted several COVID vaccine trials. This will be the first for an oral approach.

Oral vaccines are particularly attractive for the [developing world](#) because they reduce the logistical burden of immunisation campaigns, the company said.

But they could also increase uptake in [wealthy countries](#) where needle aversion is an often missed factor in hesitancy.

"They do not require a medical professional to administer," the company said in a statement. "They are more desirable to the potential recipients because they do not involve injections."

A vaccine pill could become especially attractive if ongoing boosters are required.

The World Health Organization also on Thursday warned that Africa's vaccination efforts risked being paralysed by a severe shortage of syringes needed to administer jabs.

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