

Pfizer in talks on \$5 billion acquisition: media

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A man walks past the Pfizer logo on the drug maker's headquarters in New York.

American drugmaker Pfizer is close to a deal to purchase Global Blood Therapeutics, which manufactures a recently approved drug against sickle-cell anemia, for \$5 billion, the Wall Street Journal has reported.

Pfizer, one of the top makers of COVID-19 vaccines, hopes to conclude talks with GBT within days, the newspaper said Friday, citing people close to the negotiations.

But it said other takeover candidates remain in the running.

GBT's sickle-cell treatment, marketed as Oxbryta, was authorized for those over 12 years old in 2019 but gained federal approval in December for children aged four to 11. The [blood disorder](#) affects millions.

Sales of Oxbryta helped the laboratory generate first-quarter turnover of \$55 million (up 41 percent), while the company registered a net loss of \$81.4 million.

GBT, which is based in San Francisco, California, is to publish its second-quarter numbers on Monday.

Pfizer, for its part, saw its second-quarter turnover jump by 47 percent—to a record \$27.74 billion—boosted by sales of its COVID vaccine and pills.

Its net profit soared by 78 percent, to \$9.9 billion.

GBT shares on the New York Stock Exchange were up 33.03 percent at the close on Friday, at \$63.84, for a [market capitalization](#) of more than \$4 billion.

Pfizer shares slipped by 1.18 percent, to \$49.27.

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