

Pfizer cites positive results on migraine treatment

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US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has obtained positive results in late-stage testing for a nasal spray designed to treat migraines, a study showed Thursday.

Pfizer said the study, which has been peer-reviewed and published in *The Lancet Neurology* journal, showed the company's drug zavegepant had proven to be "effective in the acute [treatment](#)" of migraines and had few apparent side effects.

The treatment for a condition generally tackled hitherto with orally taken medicines was double-blind tested on a sample of 1,405 people, with half taking a single spray dose and the remainder receiving a placebo.

The spray was found to reduce pain significantly when assessed two hours after the onset of a [migraine](#), which as well as causing often [severe headache](#) can bring symptoms including nausea and sensitivity to light or noise.

The [positive feedback](#) thus far would appear to validate a strategic choice by Pfizer to acquire zavegepant last year for some \$10 billion from developer Biohaven, along with other migraine treatments from the firm.

"This phase 3 trial aimed to compare the efficacy, tolerability, safety, and timecourse of response for zavegepant [nasal spray](#) with placebo in the acute treatment" of migraines, said The Lancet.

But it added that "additional trials are needed to establish the long-term safety and consistency of effect across attacks".

The treatment is already the subject of a number of requests for approval from the US health authority, the FDA. As yet there is no procedure under way for its use in Europe.

James Rusnak, Pfizer's [senior vice president](#) and chief development officer, said the drug "has the potential to be a significant new treatment option" for people with migraines, "particularly those who desire fast-

acting relief or would benefit from an alternative delivery method".

More information: Richard B Lipton et al, Safety, tolerability, and efficacy of zavegepant 10 mg nasal spray for the acute treatment of migraine in the USA: a phase 3, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled multicentre trial, *The Lancet Neurology* (2023). [DOI: 10.1016/S1474-4422\(22\)00517-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(22)00517-8)

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