

Novartis heart drug trial successful

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GENEVA: Novartis said a final-phase clinical trial on a treatment for chronic heart failure met its goal and the drugmaker plans to ask global regulators for marketing approval for the drug.

Novartis is ending the test early as the results show patients treated with the drug, known as LCZ696, lived longer with-

out being hospitalised for heart failure than those who received standard treatment, the Basel, Switzerland-based drugmaker said in a statement on Monday.

"The treatment's unique mechanism of action could be transformative," said Tim Wright, Novartis's head of drug development, in the statement.

The results will be submitted to a medical conference.

The drugmaker needs to make up for anticipated revenue losses as the heart medicine Diovan and cancer treatment Gleevec, its biggest sellers, start to face generic competition.

Serelaxin, another Novartis heart drug, failed to win the backing of US regulatory advisers last week.

Novartis is a full member of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

Company / new drug.