

Dr Reddy's Phase III drug stumbles

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Can't find partner for the drug after a similar compound was banned in Europe; chairman says 10 years of work in flamm

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The much-hyped anti-diabetic drug Balaglitazone of the pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) seems to be in trouble with the company not able to find a partner to take the discovery of the molecule forward.

"It is becoming difficult for us to find a partner for the drug research," K Anji Reddy, DRL's chairman, said.

Balaglitazone is a type-2 diabetic controller molecule, which is going through Phase-III trials. The Danish research company Rheosence is already partner-

ing with DRL for the drug development.

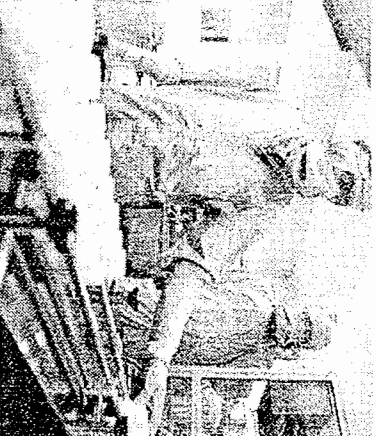
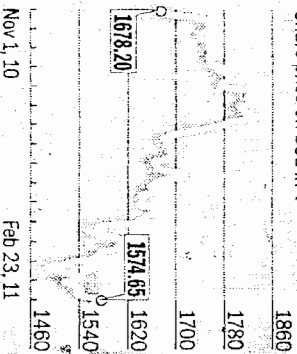
"Drug discovery is a high risk business where failure is more the norm than exception. We have to accept failures. Ten years of work has gone into flames," Reddy said.

DRL has already announced that the drug met its primary endpoint of lowering blood sugar with few adverse events.

However, a similar compound was banned in Europe recently making it difficult for DRL to find a partner to take the research forward. This is said to have affected the progress of the research.

Dr Reddy's Labs

Share price on BSE in ₹



"We could not find partners for the drug," Reddy said.

In 1997, Dr Reddy's licensed Balaglitazone to Novo Nordisk.

But in 2004, after Phase II studies, Novo Nordisk decided to terminate further clinical development of Balaglitazone as the

Phase II results did not suggest sufficient competitive advantages compared to the existing drugs.

Later the company entered an agreement with Rheosence for taking the research forward. However, the company in a comment on the status of the research said, "Additional clinical studies would depend on the breakthrough the labelling sought fee from the regulators. Dr Reddy and Rheosence intend to seek additional partner to complete required phase III studies prior approval. The strategy was finalised with the partner."

Clinical trial