

Alkem launches Roche's breast cancer blockbuster biosimilar alternative in India

Earlier a similar biosimilar brand was launched by Zydus but later the Delhi High Court restrained the Indian drugmakers from marketing the therapy over the infringement of innovator's patent.



Mumbai: Alkem Laboratories has announced the launch of its blockbuster breast cancer therapy biosimilar alternative 'Pertuza' in India.

Pertuza, is a biosimilar of Perjeta (Pertuzumab) marketed by Genentech, a Roche Subsidiary, is indicated for the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer.

The innovators brand targets the HER2 (Herceptin) protein and binds it to inhibit its pairing with other proteins that help send growth signals which slows down or stops the cancer cells from growing.

As per Roche 2024 financial results, Prejecta racked up net worldwide wide sales of over 3.6 billion swiss francs (- nearly Rs 38, 500 crore).

INNOVATOR.

“The launch of Pertuza reflects this commitment and further strengthens our oncology portfolio. Alkem aims to make this critical therapy available to thousands of women each year who would otherwise be excluded,” said Dr. Vikas Gupta, CEO, Alkem.

Before Alkem, Zydus Lifesciences had obtained conditional approval for its brand ‘Sigrima’ in India.

However, the brand fell in legal tussle with the innovator when Roche sued Zydus alleging infringement of the patent protection period and in October 2024 a Division Bench of Delhi High Court restrained the Indian drugmakers from marketing the therapy.

In its injunction plea the Swiss drug giant had raised concerns over the quality and safety of the biosimilars brands of its innovative therapy.

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