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Biocon's cancer biosimilar gets US FDA acceptance for review

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Biocon said the US FDA has accepted its biologics license application for a biosimilar to Avastin, which if approved would be the third such drug from the biopharmaceutical company in the world's biggest pharmacy market. The license was filed by Biocon's partner for the US market, Mylan. The latter also helped develop the drug.

The drug, used to treat patients of lung, cervical and colorectal cancer, is currently available in India and other developing markets. The process of approval in the US is expected to finish by the end of this year. "Once approved, our proposed biosimilar bevacizumab will provide an affordable alternative to the branded biologic for the approved indications," **Christiane Hamacher**, CEO, Biocon Biologics, said.

Biocon's biosimilars, the first of which was launched in 2016 in Japan of insulin Glargine, has become the driving force behind the company's topline, with the portfolio becoming lucrative as more of these products found acceptance in the mature markets of Europe and USA, besides other countries. The company currently has 28 such biosimilar molecules in different stages of development. Glargine will be launched in the US in the second half of this year, while another drug, Fulphila, used to control certain side effects in patients undergoing chemotherapy, already has an 18% share of the US market for such drugs.

"As we continue toward our goal of expanding access to cancer treatments for oncology patients, the FDA acceptance of our application for proposed biosimilar bevacizumab is another important step forward to increase competition, drive health system savings and expand our growing oncology portfolio," Mylan president Rajiv Malik said.