

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Publication : The Economic Times (print)
Date : July 26, 2016
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Mumbai: Reliance Life Sciences, the biopharmaceutical unit of Reliance Industries, has acquired the global rights for biosimilars, or copies, of infliximab from Boston-based Epirus Biopharmaceuticals.

Infliximab is used to treat a broad range of medical conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis and plaque psoriasis. The product was originally developed by Janssen and branded as Remicade. It grossed sales estimated at nearly \$9 billion last year.



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Reliance's acquisition of the rights from Epirus follows the termination of an agreement last year between the two companies. As part of that deal, Reliance was to supply the biosimilars to Epirus for its global marketing efforts. For infliximab, based on the cell lines provided by Epirus, Reliance Life Sciences had completed process development, manufacturing, clinical trials in India and obtained marketing approval last year. Epirus had then licensed the marketing rights to Ranbaxy under the brand name Infimab, which was later taken over by Sun Pharma.

KV Subramaniam, president at Reliance Life Sciences, confirmed the deal to **ET**, but declined to divulge financial details. He noted that with its range of products, Reliance Life Sciences is set to fortify its position in the emerging and growing medical domain globally.

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