

United Therapeutics fails to expand its Beat



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Today's failure of United Therapeutics' phase III esuberaprost might not seem like a huge deal. After all, the pulmonary arterial hypertension candidate was only expected to bring in \$73m by 2024, according to *EvaluatePharma* sellside consensus. But esuberaprost was the only United pipeline hope with sales forecasts attached, and it could have reduced the group's reliance on treprostinil, the active ingredient in most of its marketed products. United is under pressure after the recent US launch of a generic version of its treprostinil injection, Remodulin, by Novartis's Sandoz division, and more copycats are expected to follow later this year. United called time on esuberaprost after the [Beat trial](#), which had been testing the project in combination with United's inhaled treprostinil solution Tyvaso, failed to meet its primary endpoint, time to first clinical worsening. Both esuberaprost and treprostinil are prostacyclin analogues, but United thought their different binding profiles might lead to greater efficacy when combined. With esuberaprost gone, United's pipeline looks even more lacklustre: the company has struck a couple of deals recently, but both were in its tried-and-tested space of PAH. It needs new ideas if it is to escape the generic squeeze in this market.

United Therapeutics' pipeline

Project	Indication	Description	Status
Esuberaprost	Pulmonary arterial hypertension	Prostacyclin receptor agonist	Discontinued after failing phase III
Ralinepag*	Pulmonary arterial hypertension	Prostacyclin receptor agonist	Phase III
Treprostinil Technosphere**	Pulmonary arterial hypertension	Dry powder inhaled treprostinil	Phase III
Aurora-GT	Pulmonary arterial hypertension	eNOS gene therapy	Phase II
SM04646	Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis	Wnt pathway inhibitor	Phase I
RemoPro	Pulmonary arterial hypertension	Pain-free subcutaneous Remodulin prodrug	Phase I

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