

## UCB's bimekizumab has a chance after beating Stelara



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UCB's novel psoriasis project bimekizumab has so far flown under the radar. But topline data from a head-to-head phase III trial pitting it against Johnson & Johnson's market-leading psoriasis drug, Stelara, have made investors sit up and take notice. UCB's stock climbed 4% this morning on news that bimekizumab, an IL-17A and IL-17F inhibitor, had outperformed Stelara on Pasi 90 and investigator global assessment score of clear or almost clear in the Be Vivid study. The company did not give detailed data, presumably saving these for a scientific meeting. Although the project is UCB's most valuable pipeline asset, with *EvaluatePharma* consensus predicting 2024 sales of \$258m, this pales compared with the big hitters in psoriasis. Still, if bimekizumab can keep showing superiority over approved agents, it might have a chance to gain market share. Bimekizumab has others opportunities here, with two more pivotal studies set to read out this year, including a head-to-head against Abbvie's Humira. Bernstein analysts highlighted the Be Radiant trial due in 2020, versus Novartis's Cosentyx, as the one to watch, while lamenting that bimekizumab's sales potential might be higher were it in the hands of a bigger player.

### Selected phase III trials of bimekizumab

Trial name	Comparator	Trial ID	Data due
<b>Psoriasis</b>			
Be Vivid	Vs Stelara and placebo	<a href="#">NCT03370133</a>	Met co-primary endpoints & showed superiority to Stelara
Be Ready	Vs placebo	<a href="#">NCT03410992</a>	Primary completion Dec 2018
Be Sure	Vs Humira and placebo	<a href="#">NCT03412747</a>	Primary completion Feb 2019
Be Radiant	Vs Cosentyx and placebo	<a href="#">NCT03536884</a>	Primary completion Sep 2019
N/A	Autoinjector device study	<a href="#">NCT03766685</a>	Primary completion Jul 2020
Be Bright	Uncontrolled long-term study	<a href="#">NCT03598790</a>	Primary completion Dec 2022
<b>Psoriatic arthritis</b>			
Be Complete	Vs placebo	<a href="#">NCT03896581</a>	Primary completion Feb 2021
Be Optimal	Vs Humira and placebo	<a href="#">NCT03895203</a>	Primary completion Jul 2021
<b>Axial spondylarthritis</b>			
Be Mobile 2	Vs placebo	<a href="#">NCT03928743</a>	Primary completion Jan 2021
Be Mobile 1	Vs placebo	<a href="#">NCT03928704</a>	Primary completion Feb 2021

Source: *EvaluatePharma*, [clinicaltrials.gov](#)

## Top five psoriasis drugs in 2024

Product	Company	Mechanism	Annual psoriasis sales (\$m)	
			2018	2024e
Stelara	Johnson & Johnson	IL-12 antibody & IL-23 antibody	3,335	4,463
Cosentyx	Novartis	IL-17 antibody	2,002	4,134
Skyrizi	Abbvie	IL-23 antibody	-	3,278
Otezla	Amgen	PDE4 inhibitor	1,374	2,461
Tremfya	Johnson & Johnson	IL-23 antibody	544	2,358

Source: EvaluatePharma.