

## Pivotal readouts threatened by Covid-19 represent a \$20bn investment



[Amy Brown](#)

Last week *Vantage* [highlighted 315 pivotal trials that are approaching readout](#) and that could face delays caused by the new coronavirus pandemic. These studies of unapproved, novel medicines, due to end this year and seeking 172,104 subjects, represent years of invested time and money, and test some of the industry's biggest new hopes. A further analysis seeks to put a figure on exactly how much cash is being put to work here: \$20bn is the figure that *EvaluatePharma Vision\** estimates it will cost to run these 315 studies. Delays to much of this clinical work seem unavoidable as Covid-19 causes global lockdowns – and longer trials means more expense. This is before considering the knock to the profitability of a project, lengthening the time it takes to get to market. At this stage it is impossible to estimate the real cost of the pandemic, but the sums committed to trials detailed below illustrate what is at stake to various developers. [Lilly announced a pause](#) to much of its research work this week, and others will surely follow. Smaller companies reaching critical stages, like Satsuma and Axsome, below, will be under especially intense pressure.

### Commercially sponsored pivotal trials of novel projects due to read out this year

Stage	Trial count	Total enrolment	Estimated total cost of running these studies (\$bn)
Active, not recruiting	147	107,248	11.75
Recruiting	168	64,856	8.45
Total	315	172,104	20.19

Source: *EvaluatePharma Vision\**.

## Blockbusters under threat? The costs committed to pivotal programmes approaching conclusion

Project and trial info	Company	2024e sales (\$m)	Estimated cost of running study/ies (\$m)*
Tirzepatide: Surpass 3 trial in type 2 diabetes	Lilly	1,619	130
Bardoxolone: Catalyst trial in PAH	Reata	1,608	36
Sacituzumab govitecan: Ascent trial in TNBC	Immunomedics	1,365	75
BMS-986165 (Tyk2 inhibitor): 4 psoriasis trials	Bristol-Myers Squibb	1,178	384
Filgotinib: Selection1 trial in UC	Gilead/Galapagos	1,031	218
Ozanimod: 4 trials in MS, UC and Crohn's	Bristol-Myers Squibb	966	1112
Efgartigimod: Adapt trial in myasthenia gravis	Argenx	964	29
Mirikizumab: 2 trials in UC and psoriasis	Lilly	848	361
AXS-05: 2 depression trials, incl Stride-1	Axsome	753	46
Fintepla: 3 epilepsy trials, in Dravet and LGS	Zogenix	694	126

*\*For study IDs relating to these costs please see [Clinical trial delays become reality as Covid-19 risk spreads](#). LGS=Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; UC=ulcerative colitis; TNBC=triple-negative breast cancer; PAH=pulmonary arterial hypertension. Source: EvaluatePharma Vision.*

*\*EvaluatePharma Vision's R&D cost model estimates the cost of individual clinical programmes using real-world data. Company disclosed product-level spend and clinical trial patient numbers are combined to create cost per patient benchmarks by technology and therapy type. Utilising a matching algorithm these benchmarks are applied to all commercially relevant clinical trials to estimate their cost, which can then be aggregated by product to estimate the cost of development of all products.*