

Regeneron does a Lilly with its Covid-19 antibody



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Like Lilly's Covid-19 antibody bamlanivimab Regeneron's REGN-COV2 has stumbled in a clinical trial of hospitalised patients. Regeneron's Study 2066 has had its severest cohorts – subjects on high-flow oxygen and those requiring ventilation – [halted for lack of a benefit](#), though those not requiring oxygen or on low-flow will continue. Earlier this week the NIAID-sponsored Activ-3 trial of Lilly's bamlanivimab, combined with Veklury in hospitalised subjects, was halted in its entirety. Such findings, coupled with evidence of efficacy in less severe Covid-19 patients, make scientific sense: once the virus does sufficient damage an antibody blocking its entry can have little benefit. The one fly in the ointment, at least as far as Regeneron's message goes, is that an outpatient study of REGN-COV2 had yielded [virology data suggesting the greatest benefit in patients with highest viral load](#), meaning the most severely ill ones and those at greatest need. That too can be explained if it is surmised that the fittest patients are able to mount a successful response themselves, but if there is a "Goldilocks" zone for efficacy Regeneron will have to manage expectations carefully.

Selected trials of MAbs against Covid-19

Study	Projects	Sponsor	Selected data
Blaze-1, ambulatory patients	Bamlanivimab +/- etesevimab	Lilly	Hospital visits: 0.9% for combo vs 5.8% for placebo (p=0.049 in earlier analysis), 1.6% for monotherapy vs 6.3% for placebo (NEJM update, no stats)
Study 2067, ambulatory patients	REGN-COV2 (REGN10933 + REGN10987)	Regeneron	Hospital visits: 6.5% for placebo, 2.8% for combo (p=0.024)
Activ-3, hospitalised patients	Bamlanivimab + Veklury	NIAID	Failed to show benefit
Study 2066, hospitalised patients	REGN-COV2 (REGN10933 + REGN10987)	Regeneron	Cohorts 2 & 3 (high-flow oxygen & mechanical ventilation) halted; cohorts 1 & 1A (low-flow oxygen & no oxygen) continuing

Note: bamlanivimab = LY3819253 or LY-CoV555; etesevimab = LY3832479 or LY-CoV016. Source: company presentations, NEJM & clinicaltrials.gov.