Evaluate Vantage

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Astra follows Novo's lead, for a third of the price

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Today's tie-up with Neurimmune for the phase 1 antibody NI006 sees Astrazeneca move further into ATTR amyloidosis, just a month after the UK group licensed Ionis's phase 3 antisense asset eplontersen. The latest deal also mirrors a July 2021 transaction Novo Nordisk signed to bring in the only other clinical-stage antibody for ATTR amyloidosis, Prothena's PRX004. It will not go unnoticed that while the Prothena deal cost Novo $100m up front Astra has had to give Neurimmune only $30m for global NI006 rights. Both deals assume that there is space for a latecoming conventional antibody approach in ATTR amyloidosis, a competitive area controlled by Pfizer's oral TTR stabiliser Vyndaqel and featuring two recently approved therapies, Alnylam's RNAi Onpattro and Ionis's antisense Tegsedi. PRX004 and NI006 both target wild-type/hereditary ATTR cardiomyopathy, the subtype in which Bridgebio's acoramidis failed in phase 3 last month. Interestingly, Astra is also in AL amyloidosis, a non-genetic disease unrelated to the ATTR type, via last September's takeover of Caelum Biosciences. Investors might be familiar with Neurimmune for another reason: the private Swiss firm partnered with Biogen to discover the antibody that became Aduhelm.

The ATTR cardiomyopathy landscape

Project	Company	Description	Status
Vyndaqel	Pfizer	Oral TTR stabiliser	Approved
Onpattro	Alnylam	IV TTR RNAi therapeutic	Phase 3*
Vutrisiran	Alnylam	SC TTR RNAi therapeutic	Phase 3**
Eplontersen	Ionis & Astrazeneca	SC TTR antisense	Phase 3
Acoramidis	Bridgebio Pharma	Oral TTR stabiliser	Failed phase 3
NTLA-2001	Intellia & Regeneron	IV Crispr-associated Cas9 gene therapy	Phase 1
NI006	Neurimmune & Astrazeneca	IV anti-TTR antibody	Phase 1
PRX004	Prothena & Novo Nordisk	IV anti-TTR antibody	Phase 1 terminated owing to Covid-19^

*Notes: *approved for hereditary polyneuropathy; **filed for hereditary polyneuropathy; ^ph2 to start in 2022. Source: Evaluate Pharma & clinicaltrials.gov.*