

## Abbvie scraps cystic fibrosis triplet



Amy Brown

Vertex's dominance of cystic fibrosis has a lot to do with lack of competition, and a setback with [Abbvie's rival mid-stage programme](#), revealed today, removes a threat to the big biotech's monopoly. A phase 2 triplet project will be scrapped after efficacy disappointed at an interim analysis, Abbvie said alongside first-quarter results, with the C2 corrector ABBV-119 apparently the weak link. The doublet backbone - C1 corrector ABBV-222 and potentiator ABBV-3067 - performed well and will be pushed forward, with a new C2 corrector, ABBV-576, being added in to create a new triplet. Executives described '576 as structurally distinct from '119 with a better pharmacokinetic profile and higher drug exposure; a new phase 2 will start early next year. With no data disclosed it is hard to know what precisely this means for Vertex, but at the very least the prospect of competition can once again be kicked down the road. Vertex shares climbed 4% in early trade. The news is another blow to Galapagos, [the source of much of Abbvie's CF work](#). While it is not immediately clear where '576 originated, it seems unlikely to be another project from the beleaguered European biotech.

### Abbvie's cystic fibrosis pipeline

Project	Combination?	Status	Trial
Doublet	ABBV-2222 (galicaftor) + ABBV-3067 (navocaftor)	Ongoing	<a href="#">NCT03969888</a>
Triplet	ABBV-2222 (galicaftor) + ABBV-3067 (navocaftor) + ABBV-119	Abandoned	<a href="#">NCT04853368</a>
Triplet	ABBV-2222 (galicaftor) + ABBV-3067 (navocaftor) + ABBV-576	To enter ph2 early 2023	TBC

Source: company communications.

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