

# New drug effectively lowers levels of triglycerides

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(HealthDay)—An experimental drug, ISIS 304801, can lower triglyceride levels by as much as 71 percent, according to study results published in the July 30 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Joseph Witztum, M.D., a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Diego, and colleagues treated 57 patients with the [drug](#) or an inactive placebo. The patients' triglyceride levels ranged between 350 and 2,000 mg/dL, and they received weekly doses of the drug over 13 weeks. The study also included 28 people who had triglyceride levels ranging from 225 to 2,000 mg/dL, who had been receiving fibrate therapy. These patients also received the new drug or placebo.

Overall, the researchers found that ISIS 304801 reduced [triglyceride levels](#) 31 to 71 percent. No safety concerns were identified.

This trial was the second of three required for drug approval in the United States. Witztum told *HealthDay* that phase 3 trials are underway, but the results will not be available for two to three years.

The study was funded by Isis Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of ISIS 304801.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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