

Canada approves Merck grass allergy immunotherapy

3 February 2014, by The Associated Press

Merck & Co. says it's won its first approval for its new immunotherapy tablet for grass allergies, from regulators in Canada.

The drug, called Grastek, gradually reduced [allergic reactions](#) to grass pollen, by desensitizing the immune system to the substance triggering the allergic reaction. Most [allergy](#) treatments just temporarily relieve sneezing, itching and other symptoms.

The world's third-biggest drugmaker, based in Whitehouse Station, N.J., has partnered with ALK-Abello to market it in North America. ALK-Abello sells it in Europe as Grazax.

In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration is weighing approval of both Grastek and an immunotherapy tablet for ragweed allergies. The tablets dissolve under the tongue and are taken daily for a year or so.

They could become an alternative to months of uncomfortable allergy shots.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: Canada approves Merck grass allergy immunotherapy (2014, February 3) retrieved 28 April 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-02-canada-merck-grass-allergy-immunotherapy.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.