

FDA expands use of Pfizer drug for rare form of lung cancer

March 11 2016, by Matthew Perrone

The Food and Drug Administration expanded approval of a Pfizer drug to treat a small subset of lung cancer patients with a rare mutation.

The agency says Xalkori capsules are now approved for patients with the ROS-1 gene mutation, who make up about 1 percent of U.S. patients with non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of the disease.

The twice-a-day drug is part of a new wave of medications that fight disease by targeting specific genes found in certain patients. It was initially approved in 2011 for another subset of [lung cancer patients](#) who have a gene that stimulates tumor growth.

The drug blocks certain proteins found in tumors with genetic mutations, with the aim of slowing cancer spread.

Xalkori posted sales of \$438 million in 2014.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: FDA expands use of Pfizer drug for rare form of lung cancer (2016, March 11) retrieved 4 January 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-03-fda-pfizer-drug-rare-lung.html>

<p>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.</p>
--