



J&J to Buy Alios for \$1.75B for Two New Hepatitis C Drugs

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Johnson & Johnson (J&J) is expanding its share of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) drug market with a \$1.75 billion buyout of the private firm Alios BioPharma, which is showing promise in developing new HCV drugs, [Fierce BioTech reports](#).

The deal, which is expected to close by the end of this year, specifically eyes two of Alios's early stage nucleotide analog drugs, or nucs, called AL-335 and AL-516. These new all-oral hep C meds help stop the infection by blocking the virus's ability to reproduce. Both are expected to go into human trials by 2015.

For J&J, the maker of the HCV drug Olysio (simeprevir), the two new drugs could help propel the company into developing its own fixed-dose cure, without the help of drugs from other companies. Olysio is among the most commonly prescribed HCV meds alongside Gilead's nuc Sovaldi (sofosbuvir).

The acquisition also comes at [a pivotal time](#) for hep C drug competition. AbbVie is just a few months away from getting approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on a new three-drug combo of its own. Merck has a new two-drug combo that may be able to provide a cure in just four weeks, and Bristol-Myers Squibb also has a new combination coming through the pipeline.

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