

Biogen, Eisai End Two Late-Stage Trials for Alzheimer's Treatment

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On Friday (September 13), biotechnology firm Biogen and its partner Eisai [announced](#) plans to abandon two clinical trials for an Alzheimer's treatment using the drug elenbecestat.

The decision to end the studies came after a data safety monitoring board found that the benefits of administering elenbecestat did not outweigh the risks, reports [Reuters](#). In March, the companies ended two late-stage trials of another Alzheimer's drug, aducanumab. Elenbecestat and aducanumab were both β -site *amyloid* precursor protein-*cleaving enzyme* (BACE) inhibitors, drugs that curtail the production of the main component of the amyloid plaques found in Alzheimer's patients.

See [“Alzheimer's Drug Slows Symptoms, Reduces Plaques”](#)

The two Phase III studies, known as MISSION AD1 and AD2, were designed to test the safety and effectiveness of elenbecestat in 2,100 patients with mild cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer's disease. “We are very disappointed with the news, and intend to learn from these data and continue engaging with patients and investigators to pursue the discovery of new medicines for Alzheimer's disease,” Lynn Kramer, chief clinical officer of Eisai's neurology business group, says in a news release, according to [FierceBiotech](#).

Other pharmaceutical companies such as Amgen and AstraZeneca have stopped trials of BACE inhibitors in the past, according to [Reuters](#). Biogen and Eisai's Phase III trial of the anti-amyloid- β antibody BAN2401 will continue.

See [“Immunotherapy for Alzheimer's Disease Shows Promise”](#)

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