

Novartis says EU approves expanded use of Glivec

27 February 2012

Swiss pharmaceutical group Novartis said Monday the European Union will allow it to expand its use of the drug Glivec to treat certain rare forms of gastrointestinal cancer.

The European Commission approved an update to the Glivec label to include 36 months of treatment after surgery "for adults with KIT (CD117)-positive [gastrointestinal stromal tumors](#) (GIST)," Novartis said in a statement.

"Gastrointestinal stromal tumors are a rare, life-threatening cancer of the [gastrointestinal tract](#)," it said.

They are often difficult to diagnose and treat because they may not cause physical symptoms.

The cancers are usually diagnosed in patients aged between 55 and 65, and are characterised by tumors of connective tissue supporting the digestive tract.

Last year Novartis said sales of Glivec reached \$4.7 billion (3.5 billion euros).

(c) 2012 AFP

APA citation: Novartis says EU approves expanded use of Glivec (2012, February 27) retrieved 13 November 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-02-novartis-eu-glivec.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.