

EU OKs Bristol-Myers, AstraZeneca diabetes drug

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(AP)—Drugmakers Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and AstraZeneca PLC say their experimental diabetes pill has gotten its first major approval, in the European Union.

Forxiga (for-SEE'-gah), a once-a-day pill for adult Type 2 diabetes patients, is the first drug approved in a new class called SGLT2 inhibitors.

Known chemically as dapagliflozin (da-pah-GLEH'-flo-zihn), Forxiga works independently of insulin to remove excess blood sugar from the body differently than other Type 2 [diabetes drugs](#).

It can be taken alone or with insulin or other medicines that lower blood sugar.

Last January, the U.S. [Food and Drug Administration](#) said it wouldn't approve the drug without more data. Bristol-Myers says the two drugmakers now plan to provide additional data from ongoing patient studies and reapply for approval in mid-2013.

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