

FINANCIAL



AbbVie scores surprisingly good Q2 results but pipeline worries persist

That's because the Illinois pharma can't escape the burden presented by rheumatoid arthritis treatment Humira, which accounts for 60% of its sales and is the world's top-selling drug. Sales of the drug rose 14% year-over-year during the quarter to \$4.7 billion, beating analysts' expectations, but the company itself has predicted that biosimilar competition will start taking a toll on sales next year. That has left investors desperate for signs of anything coming out of the company's pipeline that will help make up for the impending loss.

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Gilead's hepatitis C franchise breaks out of a rut, but the M&A drumbeat continues

The hep C franchise, which recently won a new addition in Vosevi, came in at \$2.86 billion, beating analysts' consensus expectations by \$567 million, according to a note from Jefferies. HIV drugs also delivered strong sales of \$3.57 billion.

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Puma to price new cancer med Nerlynx at a higher-than-expected \$10K per month: report

Nerlynx was approved for a year's worth of daily dosing to prevent a recurrence of breast cancer in women previously treated with Roche's Herceptin. Analysts had predicted the drug would peak around \$1.25 billion a year in sales, but the FDA's nod turned out to be broader than most had expected. The label was not restricted to hormone-receptor positive patients, even though the biggest benefit during clinical trials was seen in those women.

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Novartis gets boost from an unexpected source—Alcon—as generic pricing sinks Sandoz sales

Alcon, coupled with strong performance from Novartis' new products, helped cushion a shortfall in its generics business, Sandoz—another source of concern for the company's investors. Sandoz's revenue fell 4% to \$2.5 billion thanks to pricing pressure, mainly in the U.S., the company said.

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