

Swedish drugs in phase III – here are the studies to keep an eye on

As we know, developing drugs is a long and uncertain process, and only a fraction of all projects reach the clinical phase. But it does happen – and here we list some promising Swedish drug candidates that are currently in phase III and may be worth following.

Scandibio, with renowned researchers such as Mathias Uhlén and Henrik Zetterberg on its board, has developed a drug candidate that is now being clinically tested in Alzheimer's patients with mild, moderate, and severe symptoms. The treatment focuses on stimulating the mitochondria, the powerhouses of cells, in the brain, thereby improving memory. A phase III study has been initiated in Turkey with the goal of including 600 patients.

Diamyd Medical has recently completed the screening period in its ongoing Phase III study in type 1 diabetes – and the investigational drug has now been given its global generic name: retogatein. In consultation with the FDA, it has been decided to bring forward the primary efficacy readout in the study from 24 to 15 months, i.e. nine months earlier than originally planned. An interim analysis of efficacy data is expected in March 2026. Retogatein has been granted orphan drug and fast track status by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of stage 3 type 1 diabetes.

Camurus has several drug candidates in phase III. For one of them, Oclaiz (formerly CAM2029), the company has submitted an updated application for marketing approval to the FDA as a treatment for acromegaly. The FDA has set a target date for final approval of June 10, 2026. The same drug is also being tested in another Phase III study evaluating efficacy and safety in over 300 patients with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors.

Camurus is also evaluating the drug candidate CAM2038 in patients previously treated with opioids for chronic low back pain, as well as in patients with other chronic pain conditions. Another candidate, CAM4072, is being tested in phase III by licensing partner Rhythm Pharmaceuticals in patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome.

Hansa Biopharma's drug Imlifidase already has conditional approval in the EU as a treatment to enable kidney transplantation in severely sensitized patients. At the same time, a follow-up Phase III study is underway—with results expected in the second half of 2026—to enable marketing approval in the US as well. Imlifidase is also being evaluated as a potential addition to standard treatment to improve kidney function in patients with anti-GBM disease.

Cinclus Pharma, which was started by researchers with backgrounds at Astra and Astra Zeneca with the goal of developing a successor to Losec and Nexium, has initiated a Phase III study. It will evaluate the drug candidate linaprazan glurate as a treatment for erosive gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), a condition that can cause severe heartburn. The study is expected to be completed in the second half of 2026 and will be followed by another Phase III study. The company expects that a potential marketing approval could come in 2029/2030.

Affibody is conducting Phase III studies evaluating the drug candidate izokibep as a potential treatment for psoriatic arthritis and the inflammatory skin disease hidradenitis suppurativa. Izokibep works by inhibiting IL-17A, a signaling protein that plays a central role in several autoimmune diseases.

According to its website, Sobi is currently conducting three Phase III studies, some of which are in collaboration with other companies. Olezarsen is being tested for severe hypertriglyceridemia, Vonjo for myelofibrosis, and Zynlonta is being evaluated in lymphoma. A number of other major projects are in the registration phase for expanded indications. These include pegcetacoplan for kidney disease and avatrombopag for immune thrombocytopenia.

Astra Zeneca is in a league of its own and is currently conducting 43 phase III studies, according to the company's website. Many of these involve expanding the indications for already established drugs, such as Imfinzi and Enhertu.

However, the Swedish-British company also has a number of Phase III candidates awaiting their first approval. Some examples are the cancer therapies volrustomig and rilvegostomig, both of which are being evaluated in several different indications. Other examples include the blood pressure treatment baxdrostat and the drug zibotentan, which is being tested in chronic kidney disease.

Several other Swedish research companies, such as Alligator Bioscience, Abliva, Ilya Pharma, Vicore Pharma, and Dilafor, have drug candidates that are entering phase III, but where the starting signal for the studies has not yet been given.

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