

Scientists test new prostate disease drug

A Canadian-headquartered biopharmaceutical company is conducting the second Phase 3 study of a new drug designed to treat prostate disease.

Aeterna Zentaris Inc. said the double-blind study to be conducted in Europe will test the clinical effectiveness of cetorelix, a luteinizing hormone-releasing drug for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia, or BPH -- a non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate that causes disturbances in urination.

In the second Phase 3 study, 400 male patients will enter a four-week, no-treatment observation period and then be randomly assigned to either receive cetorelix or a placebo. Effectiveness will be based on a test that measures the severity and stability of voiding prostate symptoms.

The company's first study of the effectiveness of cetorelix began in April 2007 and is continuing in Canada, Europe and the United States.

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