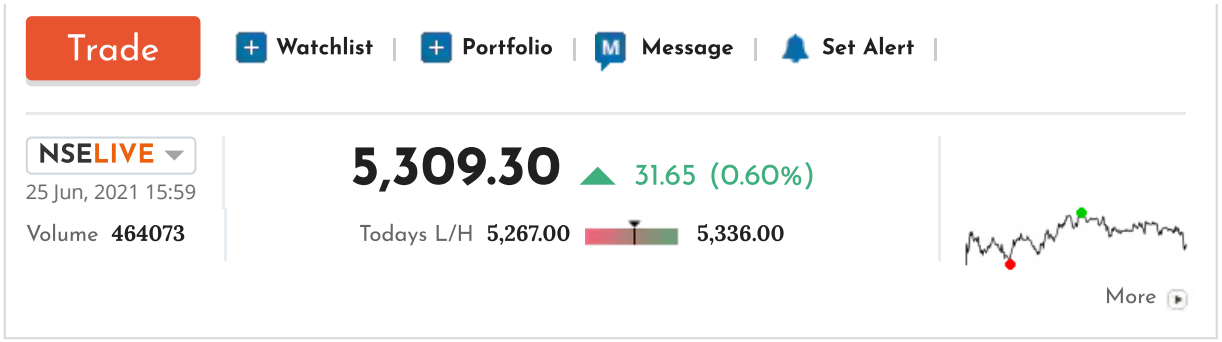
Dr Reddy's launches generic version of triglyceride lowering drug Vascepa in US

Dr Reddy's said its generic Vascepa was not indicated for other cardiovascular risk conditions like myocardial infarction, stroke, coronary revascularisation, and unstable angina, limiting the scope of its sales.

VISWANATH PILLA | JUNE 22, 2021 / 10:40 AM IST

Amarin six patents on Vascepa were set to expire in 2030. [Representative image]



Dr Reddy's, on June 22, said that it had launched a generic version of Vascepa in the US. Vascepa is used in treating patients with high triglyceride levels.

The launch came a day after the US Supreme Court rejected a bid by the Amarin Corporation to revive six patents of Vascape. In 2020, the Federal Circuit court ruled in favour of Dr Reddy's and another generic drug-maker Hikma Pharmaceuticals that had challenged Amarin's patent claims over the drug.

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Vascepa use in the US has been rising, with sales of $598 million in 2020. US-based Amarin Corporation markets the drug in the US.

Dr. Reddy's generic Vascepa or Icosapent Ethyl Capsules, 1 gram was approved by USFDA in August 2020, as an adjunct to diet to reduce triglyceride (TG) levels in adult patients with severe hypertriglyceridemia. However, the company could not launch the drug due to patent litigation and certain alleged anti-competitive practices like restricting access to supplies of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

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Amarin earlier said that Hikma's drug threatened about $40 million in Vascepa's annual sales at 2020 prescription levels, given that the drug is only approved for narrow indications.

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FIRST PUBLISHED: JUN 22, 2021 10:40 AM