

Acasti Pharma Inc

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Acasti Pharma remains Speculative Buy following FDA win for rival's heart drug: Mackie

Acasti Pharma Inc (NASDAQ:ACST)(CVE:ACST) remains a Speculative Buy following a regulatory decision to broaden the label for rival Amiran's Vascepa heart drug, according to Mackie Research.

Vascepa is an omega-3 drug derived from fish oil to treat severe hypertriglyceridemia patients. Acasti is advancing a similar drug called CaPre to treat the same condition (high levels of triglycerides in the blood), which is known to contribute to heart disease and strokes.

On Thursday, a US Food and Drug Administration advisory committee voted to approve a New Drug Application for Vascepa's label extension -- which would significantly expand the size of the patient population that could use the drug. The FDA is expected to decide on the new label by December 28.

READ: Acasti Pharma says independent study highlights effectiveness of CaPre in treating hypertriglyceridemia

"If Vascepa's NDA is eventually approved, we believe the Omega-3 market should grow enormously - Acasti's CaPre should be able to piggyback on this," Mackie analysts Andre Uddin and Toby Ma wrote in a note released Thursday.

The analysts noted that Acasti is conducting two Phase 3 TRILOGY trials with CaPre in patients with severe hypertriglyceridemia. Top-line results of TRILOGY-1 & 2 remain on track to be reported in December 2019 and late January 2020, respectively.

If the FDA approves the Vascepa label extension, the US omega-3 market would be open to 80 million patients (from 3 million) with hypertriglyceridemia or high triglycerides levels.

In previous trials Acasti's CaPre demonstrated superior safety and pharmacokinetics (no food effect) compared to Amarin's Vascepa and pharma giant GlaxoSmithKline's Lovaza, analysts noted.

"Accordingly, we believe CaPre should become the best in class - a best-in-class drug should achieve market leadership easily, regardless of its order of market entry," they added.

The analysts also maintained a C\$8.70 price target for Acastii shares, which are currently trading at US\$1.99 in New York and C\$2.64 in Canada.

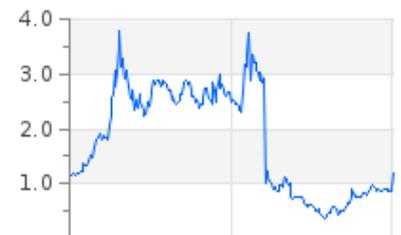
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Price: 1.06

Market Cap: \$95.62 m

1 Year Share Price Graph



June 2019 December 2019 June 2020

Share Information

Code: ACST

Listing: TSX-V

52 week	High	Low
	4.05	0.35

Sector: Pharma & Biotech

Website: www.acastipharma.com

Company Synopsis:

Acasti is a biopharmaceutical innovator focused on the research, development and commercialization of prescription drugs using omega-3 fatty acids derived from krill oil. Omega-3 fatty acids have extensive clinical evidence of safety and efficacy in lowering triglycerides in patients with hypertriglyceridemia.

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