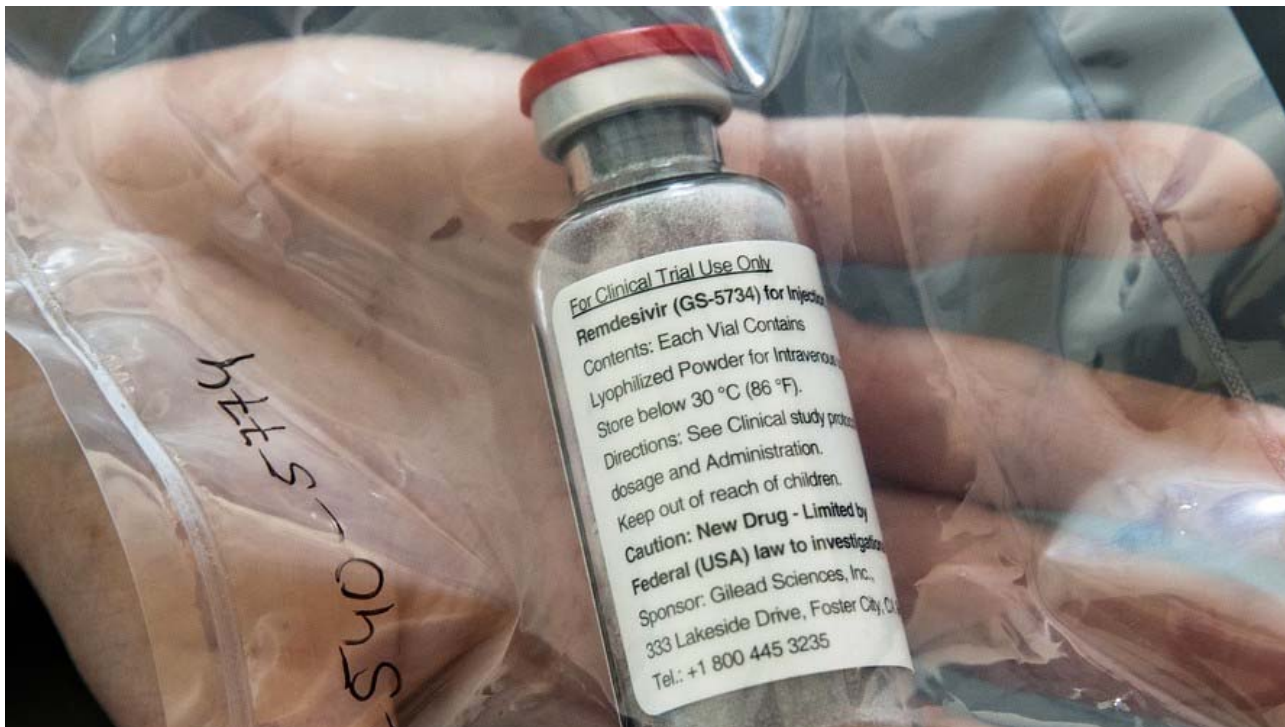


Gilead drug produced 'rapid' recovery in coronavirus patients, report says

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Gilead stock pops in after-hours trading; experimental drug remdesivir is considered a front-runner in the race to develop a treatment for COVID-19 infections



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University of Chicago Medicine researchers said they saw “rapid recoveries” in 125 COVID-19 patients taking Gilead Sciences Inc.’s experimental drug remdesivir as part of a clinical trial, according to a Thursday afternoon report.

Shares of Gilead Sciences Inc. [GILD, +2.55%](#) jumped 12.7% in after-hours trading on Thursday following the publication of [the Stat News report](#).

There are no proven treatments or vaccines for the novel coronavirus which has sickened more than two million people world-wide and killed nearly 150,000 people, but remdesivir is considered a front-runner in the race to develop a treatment for COVID-19 infections that works. Though the findings reported by Stat are promising, they are not based on full clinical trial data from the company.

For more: [These 21 companies are working on coronavirus treatments or vaccines — here’s where things stand](#)

According to Stat, 125 people with COVID-19 receiving care at the University of Chicago are participating in two Phase 3 clinical trials conducted by Gilead; 113 of them have severe forms of the disease. Stat said it obtained a recorded video discussion about the trial among University of Chicago faculty members in which a physician said when some people start taking the drug, fevers come down and some come off ventilators.

[One trial](#) is evaluating remdesivir in 2,400 people with severe forms of the disease, [the other](#) is testing the drug in 1,600 patients who are moderately ill. Both trials are being conducted at multiple sites around the world. According to [ClinicalTrials.gov](#), both trials began in March and are expected to conclude in May.

In a statement to Stat News on Thursday, Gilead said: “What we can say at this stage is that we look forward to data from

ongoing studies becoming available.”

It has been a dramatic week for Gilead's stock, starting with the release last Friday of a [small clinical data set](#) showcasing that 68% of 53 hospitalized patients who had received remdesivir on a compassionate-use basis showed clinical improvement. At that time, a J.P. Morgan analyst called the data “a promising first look” but warned the results “need to be kept in context.”

On Wednesday, shares tumbled after a [clinical-trial listing was updated](#) to say Chinese authorities had stopped recruiting for a remdesivir clinical trial in severely ill COVID-19 patients there. Shares rose again on a Bloomberg News report that Gilead is [considering taking a stake](#) in Arcus Biosciences Inc. [RCUS, +89.34%](#).

Year-to-date, Gilead's stock has gained 17.8%, while the S&P 500 [SPX, +0.58%](#) is down 13.8%.