



First-in-class PROTAC therapy vepdegestrant secures FDA approval in breast cancer

Market Event Summary

Glenda Walker, Ph.D. | May 2026

First-in-class therapy offers a valuable treatment for *ESR1*-mutant metastatic breast cancer

- **The FDA has approved its first PROteolysis TArgeting Chimera (PROTAC);** vepdegestrant (Veppanu) was approved in May 2026 for previously treated HR-positive / HER2-negative, *ESR1*-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer.
- **The Phase 3 VERITAC-2 trial** assessed vepdegestrant in previously treated HR-positive / HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer.
- **Vepdegestrant showed a significant improvement in median PFS** compared with fulvestrant in the ***ESR1*-mutant population**, but not in the overall intent-to-treat population.

Population	Median PFS, vepdegestrant vs. fulvestrant
<i>ESR1</i> mutant	• 5.0 months vs. 2.1 months (hazard ratio 0.57, P = 0.0001)
Intent to treat	• 3.7 months vs 3.6 months (hazard ratio 0.83, P = 0.07)

Background

- **HR-positive / HER2-negative breast cancer** accounts for ~70% of all breast cancer cases across the G7 markets.
- ***ESR1* mutations** are found in up to **50% of patients** treated with endocrine therapy plus CDK4/6 inhibitors and are recognized as a **key mechanism of endocrine resistance** in HR-positive / HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer.
- **An unmet need** exists for more efficacious treatments to delay the development of endocrine resistance in HR-positive / HER2-negative patients.

Clarivate's takeaways



Novel therapy expands options in *ESR1*-mutant disease

Vepdegestrant provides a new option for *ESR1*-mutant HR-positive / HER2-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer, a biologically defined subgroup with high unmet need, but it enters a competitive endocrine receptor-targeted landscape behind elacestrant and imlunestrant, with further late-phase entrants expected to fragment the market and constrain peak share.



Partnering will be key to commercial success

Arvinas and Pfizer are partnering with Rigel Pharmaceuticals to commercialize vepdegestrant in the United States. The selection of partners in ex-US markets will be key to supporting launch and lifecycle expansion.

Following mixed data from VERITAC-2, Arvinas and Pfizer deprioritized combination trials aimed at expanding use of vepdegestrant to a broader population, including first-line HR-positive / HER2-negative breast cancer patients, and initiated partner identification efforts.



Success hinges on biomarker testing

The approval of vepdegestrant reinforces the shift toward biomarker-driven endocrine therapy sequencing. The commercial success of vepdegestrant in this setting will depend on wider and routine adoption of *ESR1*-mutation testing in metastatic disease.

About the author



Glenda Walker, Ph.D.

Senior Healthcare Research & Data Analyst

DRG Commercial Solutions

Dr. Walker has more than 12 years' experience in the pharmaceutical field. She has authored thought-leadership articles covering a broad range of pharmaceutical-industry-relevant topics and therapeutic areas, including the flagship Drugs to Watch article. She holds a Ph.D. in cell biology and genetics from the University of Manchester and was a Wellcome postdoctoral fellow at the University College London Institute of Healthy Ageing.

Clarivate coverage of breast cancer

- Breast Cancer | [Disease Landscape & Forecast | G7](#)
- Breast Cancer | [Current Treatment: Physician Insights | US](#), exploring the current prescribing trends among medical oncologists treating breast cancer
- Breast Cancer | [Current Treatment: Treatment Sequencing | US](#), presenting surveyed medical oncologists' most frequent treatment sequences for breast cancer
- [Metastatic HR-positive / HER2-negative Breast Cancer | Unmet Need](#)



Think forward™

Have a question?

lsh.support@clarivate.com
clarivate.com

+1 215 386 0100 (U.S.)

+44 (0) 20 7433 4000 (Europe)

About Clarivate

Clarivate is a leading global provider of transformative intelligence. We offer enriched data, insights & analytics, workflow solutions and expert services in the areas of Academia & Government, Intellectual Property and Life Sciences & Healthcare. For more information, please visit clarivate.com.

© 2026 Clarivate. All rights reserved

Clarivate and its logo, as well as all other trademarks used herein are trademarks of their respective owners and used under license.