Jun 15, 2022 - Health

Pfizer says COVID pill wasn't effective for standard-risk patients

Adriel Bettelheim

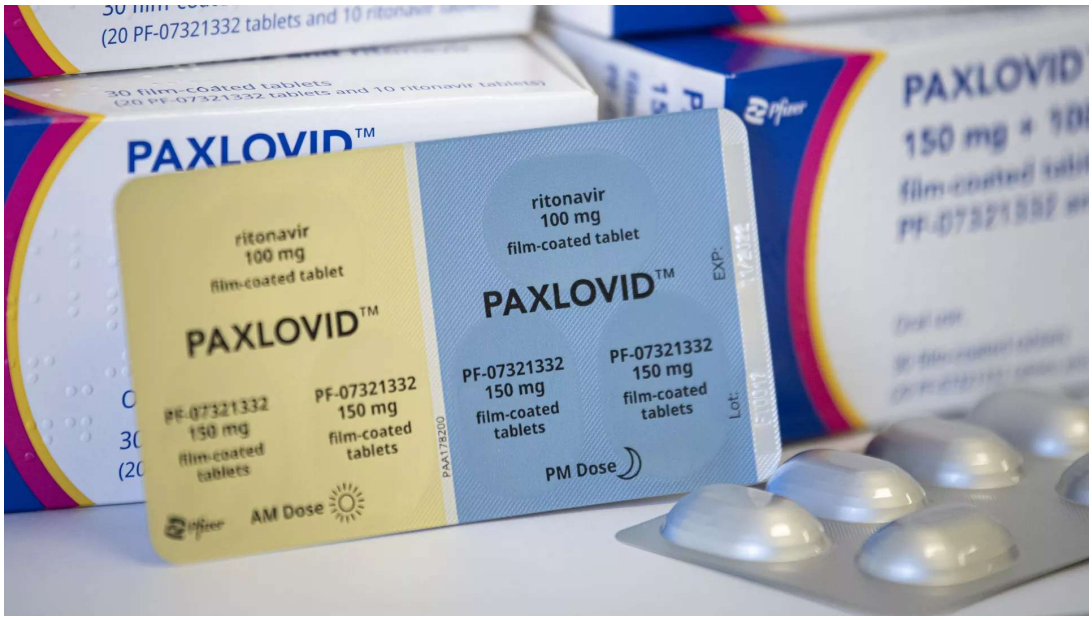

Photo: Fabian Sommer/picture alliance via Getty Images

Pfizer on Tuesday said a study showed its COVID-19 pill Paxlovid didn't significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization or death in people with a standard risk of developing severe infections.

Driving the news: Pfizer said it was halting enrollment in the study of standard-risk patients after Paxlovid showed a 51% risk reduction, which the company called "non-significant."

- The results will be rolled into an application for full FDA approval of the drug in high-risk patients.
- Pfizer said the findings won't affect its full-year 2022 revenue forecast.

Where it stands: The FDA in December authorized Paxlovid for the treatment of individuals at high risk of severe illness from COVID.

- The Biden administration this spring committed to buying 20 million courses of the drug from Pfizer and laid out a roadmap for distributing them to states, community health centers and other providers.
- A recent study from Israel found Paxlovid lowered hospitalizations for older patients but wasn't as effective for younger groups.

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Despite many reports of "rebound" cases of COVID in people who've taken Pfizer's antiviral treatment, a Mayo Clinic study out today found the phenomenon appears to be relatively rare.

Details: The team looked at the outcomes of 483 patients treated with the five-day oral regimen of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, which are marketed together as Paxlovid to treat early-stage COVID.

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