

# Zelboraf approved for use in Erdheim-Chester disease

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certain patients with melanoma that harbor the BRAF V600E mutation, and we are now bringing the therapy to patients with a rare cancer with no approved therapies," Richard Pazdur, M.D., director of the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence, said in a statement.

The drug is produced by the Swiss pharmaceutical firm Hoffman-LaRoche.

**More information:** [More Information](#)

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(HealthDay)—Zelboraf (vemurafenib) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as the first drug to treat certain adults patients with Erdheim-Chester disease (ECD).

The efficacy of Zelboraf, a [kinase inhibitor](#), was studied in 22 patients with BRAF-V600-mutation positive ECD. Fifty percent (11 patients) experienced a partial response and 4.5 percent (1 patient) experienced a complete response.

The most common side effects include arthralgia, rash, alopecia, fatigue, prolonged QT interval, and papilloma, the FDA said in a news release. Less common but more severe adverse reactions could include development of other cancers, severe skin reactions, hepatotoxicity, and [kidney failure](#). The drug is contraindicated for pregnant women because it could harm a developing fetus, the FDA said.

"This product was first approved in 2011 to treat

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