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How Allergan went from a tiny Los Angeles eye care company to the biggest takeover target of 2015



LYDIA RAMSEY NOV. 23, 2015, 10:44 AM

Allergan Plc, the drugmaker known for its bestseller Botox, agreed to merge with pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. in a \$160 billion deal.

The company, which was recently created as a combination of Actavis Plc and Allergan Inc., appealed to Pfizer in part because of how it could help cut the drug giant's tax bill. Pfizer is known for making blockbuster drugs Viagra and Lipitor.

Here's the story of how Allergan went from a small Los Angeles company known for making eye-drops to an Ireland-domiciled drug giant to 2015's biggest takeover target.



Pfizer CEO Ian Read is going after Allergan Plc.

REUTERS/Luke MacGregor

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Allergan was founded in 1948 by pharmacist Gavin S. Herbert, shown below on the left with Dr. Parmis Khatibi, a specialist at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center in 2014.

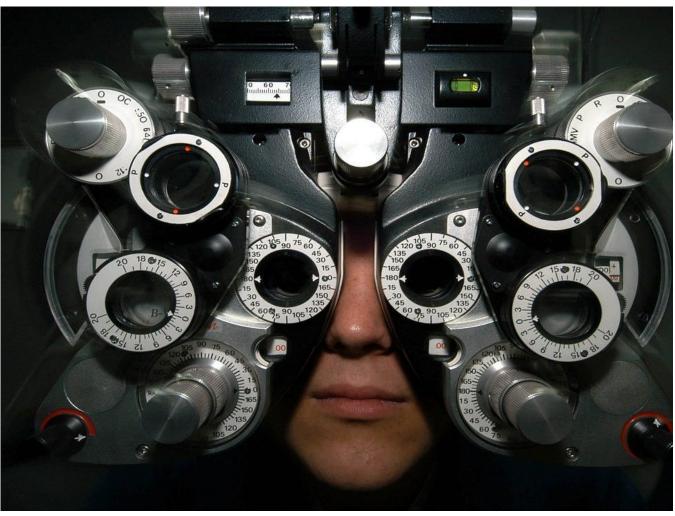


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Along with chemist Stanley Bly, Herbert created the company's first drug, an anti-allergy nose drop that used the antihistamine neoantergan, in Los Angeles. They marketed the drug under the name Allergan.



Wikimedia/CDC/ Douglas Jordan, M.A.



The eye drops launched Allergan into the eye care field.

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Allergan Pharmaceuticals Inc. officially became a company in 1950. The company focused on eye products before becoming public in 1970.

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