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



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Allergan Plc, the drugmaker known for its best-seller 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.



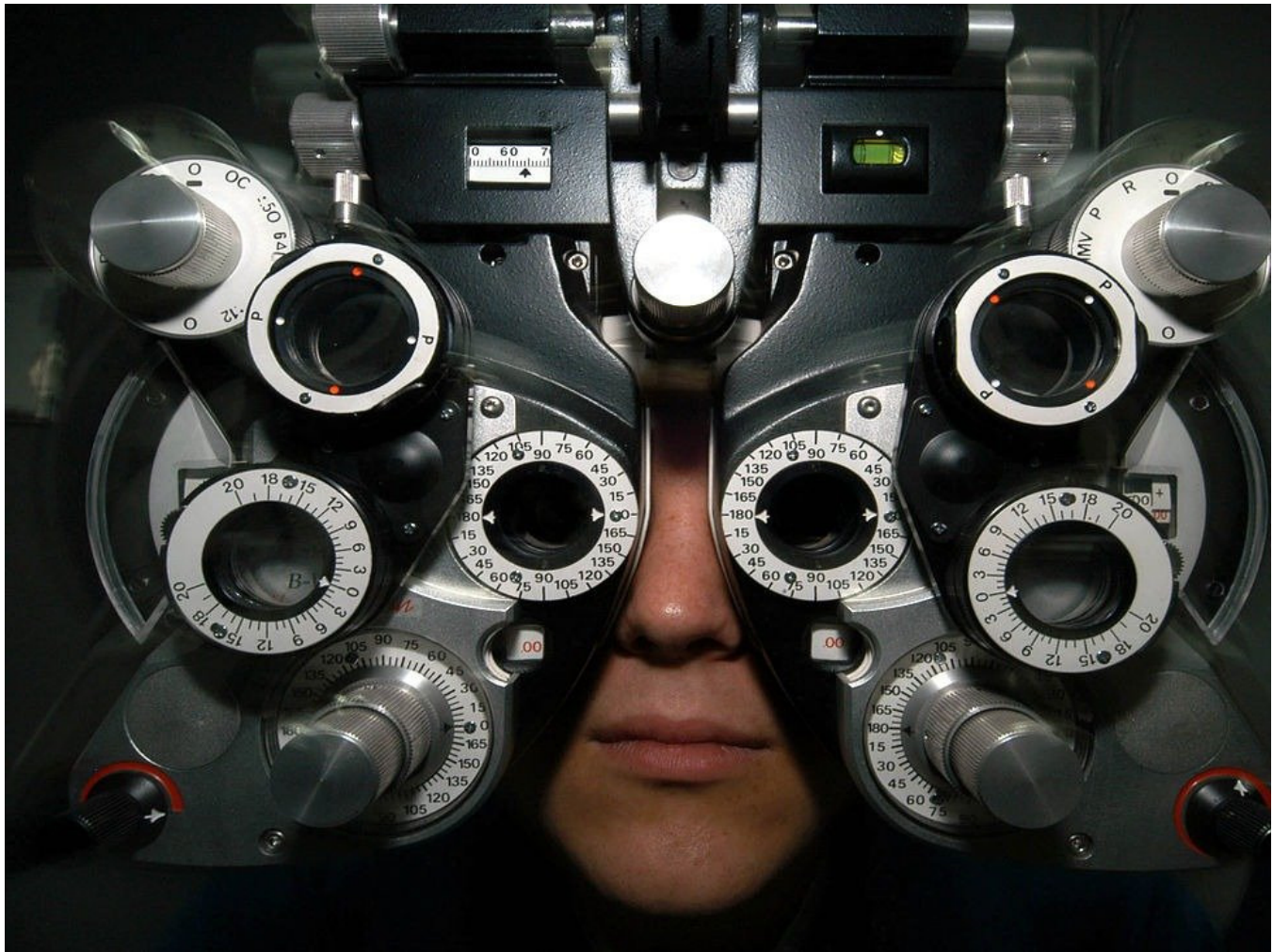
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Along with chemist Stanley Bly, Herbert created the company's first drug, an anti-allergy nose drop that used the antihistamine neoantergan, in Los Angeles. They marketed the drug under the name Allergan.



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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