



Biosimilar Medicine for Cancer

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Pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd has launched '**Versavo (bevacizumab)**', a biosimilar of Roche's Avastin in India. The drug is for the treatment of several types of cancers.

- A **biosimilar** is exactly what its name implies — it is a **biologic that is “similar” to another biologic medicine** (known as a reference product).
 - **Biologics or biological products are medicines made from living organisms** through highly complex manufacturing processes and must be handled and administered under carefully monitored conditions.
 - Biologics are used to prevent, treat or cure a variety of diseases including cancer, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and autoimmune disorders.
- **Biosimilars are highly similar to the reference product in terms of safety, purity and potency**, but may have minor differences in clinically inactive components.
- **India is one of the leading manufacturers of similar biologics.** India developed a new guideline in 2012 for the pre- and post-marketing approval of similar biologics. The guidelines also address the regulation of manufacturing process as well as quality, safety, and efficacy of similar biologics.

Source: TH