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Pfizer launches targeted therapy for lung cancer in Singapore

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Singapore: Pfizer has launched Xalkori, a targeted therapy for ALK-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), in Singapore.

Xalkori is used to treat patients with late-stage (locally advanced or metastatic) non-small cell cancer (NSCLC) with an abnormal anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) gene.

A targeted oral medication, Xalkori blocks certain proteins called kinases, including the protein produced by the abnormal ALK gene. Xalkori is taken twice a day as a single-agent treatment. It was shown that cancer patients responded more positively to this oral medication,with greater improvement in quality of life and fewer drug discontinuations due to treatment-related adverse events compared to standard chemotherapy.

Xalkori received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2011 and was the first ALK+ Non Small Cell Lung Cancer targeted therapy drug to be approved by the US FDA.