**Glaxo seeks green light for breast cancer pill**
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Drugs giant GlaxoSmithKline will this week file for approval in the EU for a radical new breast cancer drug which can be taken in tablet form. The new drug, Tykerb, offers a significant advance in treatment because women can swallow one pill a day at home, unlike existing products which are administered intravenously.

GSK hopes Tykerb will come to the market some time next year. The company has already filed for approval in the US for the drug, which is vitally important also commercially to GSK as it is has been reckoned it could net the company at least £1bn a year in sales by 2012.

Jean-Pierre Garnier, GSK's chief executive, seems to have targeted oncology as a major growth area for Britain's biggest drugs company. 'Cost has been a stumbling block for new cancer treatments in the past, sparking protests from women who believe they have been denied treatment because of its high cost’ said Garnier. ‘We now want to establish a pricing strategy worldwide that will not be an obstacle to patients but will also give a return to shareholders.'.

(Ruth Sunderland - *The Observer*)

