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The Most Expensive Drugs Sold in India

In 2006, US drug maker Gilead Sciences Inc introduced the concept of voluntary licences in India, where it gave permission to some Indian companies to manufacture and sell its anti-HIV drug Viread. Now, Gilead has applied the same strategy for Sovaldi, considered to be a path-breaking treatment to cure Hepatitis C infection.

Gilead has signed non-exclusive licensing agreements with Cadila Healthcare, Hetero Labs, Mylan


Laboratories, Ranbaxy Laboratories, SeQuent Scientific, Strides Arcolab and Cipla to manufacture and sell Sovaldi in 91 developing countries in return for royalty payments. Gilead has left it to these drug makers to fix the price.

In the US, where Sovaldi is priced at \$84,000 (≈5.1 crore) for a 12-week treatment, the drug has sparked a controversy with insurance companies refusing to reimburse claims.

Gilead has said it may sell the drug in India on its own, pricing it at \$1,000 or (≈60,000) for 12 weeks of treatment. Sovaldi is a prescription medicine used with other anti-viral drugs to treat chronic Hepatitis C infection in adults.

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The most expensive medicine that currently retails in the Indian market is the prostate cancer drug Jevtana that was developed by Sanofi-Aventis. It is sold at ₹**3,30,000** for a **60 mg** injection. Jevtana is administered in patients where the cancer has progressed to an advanced stage and is delivered intravenously. Generally, patients receive the drug every three weeks.



	Drug	MRP* (₹)	Therapy
2	SPRYCEL 70 MG TABLET 60 BMS INDIA	2,11,538	Blood Cancer
3	SPRYCEL 50 MG TABLET 60 BMS INDIA	1,65,680	Blood Cancer
4	PAMIGLAN 500 MG INFUSION 50 ML GLAND PHARMA	1,56,451	Anti cancer
5	ZYTIGA 250 MG TABLET 120 JANSSEN	1,50,000	Prostate Cancer
6	NEXAVAR 200 MG TABLET 60 BAYER PHARMA	1,40,215	Lung Cancer
7	ABRETONE 250 MG TABLET 120 CADILA PHARMA	1,20,000	Prostate Cancer
8	ABIRAPRO 250 MG TABLET 120 GLENMARK PHARMA	1,11,000	Prostate Cancer
9	HERCEPTIN INFUSION 50 ML ROCHE	1,10,700	Breast Cancer
10	NOVOSEVEN (EPTACCOG ALFA) 2.4 MG INJECTION 1 ABBOTT + ABBOTT HC + NOVO	1,00,556	Prevents bleeding, used for blood clotting

*Most of the products are hospital products and may have discounts

Some groups of patients have expressed displeasure over the price. Groups including I-MAK, Sankalp and the Asia Pacific Network for Positive People have filed a pre-grant opposition to Gilead's patent application in India.

Gilead's Sovaldi is not the only expensive drug to be made available in India. ET's Divya Rajagopal brings you the 10 most expensive drugs sold in India, based on their maximum retail prices. Not surprisingly, most of them are anti-cancer drugs. The data was provided by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists.