

Biogen's secret campaign to bring its Alzheimer's drug back from the ashes

Biogen Inc's (BIIB.O) shock decision this week to bring its experimental Alzheimer's drug aducanumab back from the **scrap** heap was born out of "top secret" meetings, non-disclosure agreements and six months of hashing over trial data with scientists, regulators and statisticians, researchers told Reuters.

Biogen had announced in March that it would terminate two large clinical trials of aducanumab because they were likely to fail. Within weeks, a group of company researchers set out to understand what went wrong.

As they studied data from a larger pool of patients who received the drug, they began to question that conclusion.

In the months that followed, Biogen kept its own trial investigators and committee overseeing the trial in the dark about the possibility that some patients had benefited from high doses of the therapy, researchers told Reuters.

The company said it brought in outside Alzheimer's experts and statisticians to help it **parse** the new findings, and will seek U.S. approval for the therapy early next year, once again raising hopes for patients suffering from the brain-wasting disease.

scrap 废弃的；残余物

parse 解析；理解

Globally, 131 million people are expected to be diagnosed with **Alzheimer's** by 2050, up from 50 million today. Any successful treatment could be worth \$10 billion or more in annual sales, industry analysts say.

The risks for Biogen remain high. Wall Street analysts cast doubt on whether Biogen's analysis would **pass muster** with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration without an additional years-long trial to confirm the findings.

Alzheimer 阿尔兹海默症

pass muster 符合要求；及格