**MIRACLE DRUG**

**New pill for asthma attacks makes condition FIVE TIMES less severe within three months**

**BY PAT HAGAN**

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University of Leicester boffins behind the new wonder drug have called it a 'game changer'

**[A TWICE-a-day pill](https://www.thesun.co.uk/topic/drugs/) that dramatically reduces the severity of asthma attacks has been developed by British**[**scientists**](https://www.thesun.co.uk/topic/science/)**.**

It is the first new pill for almost twenty years and has been hailed as a real “game changer”, with the potential to revolutionise treatment of the disease.

Scientists have developed a pill that dramatically reduces the severity of asthma attacks

Within three months asthma became five times less severe in participants taking the medication.

Around 5.4 million Britons have asthma, including 1.1 million children.

Professor Chris Brightling, of the [University](https://www.thesun.co.uk/topic/university/) of Leicester, said: “This new drug could be a game changer for future treatment of asthma.”

Game changing . . . Professor Chris Brightling has hailed the drug which has the potential to revolutionise treatment of asthma

The pill, called Fevipiprant, is aimed at severe rather than mild sufferers, and is currently being evaluated in late stage clinical trials for efficacy, according to ClinTrials.gov.

Three people die every day because of asthma attacks and research shows that two thirds of asthma deaths are preventable, according to Asthma UK.

Prof Brightling recruited 61 patients, with one group given a 225mg dose twice a day for 12 weeks and the other a placebo.

Both were added to the medications the participants were already taking.

Professor Chris Brightling, from the University of Leicester, said the treatment could help stop preventable asthma attacks

The study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine analysed the sputum eosinophil count in the lungs, an inflammation measurement of a white blood cell that rises with the severity of asthma.

People who do not have asthma have a percentage of less than one and those with moderate-to-severe asthma typically have a reading of about five per cent.

The rate in people with moderate-to-severe asthma taking the medication was reduced from an average of 5.4 per cent to 1.1 per cent over 12 weeks.

It significantly decreased symptoms, boosted lung function, reduced inflammation and repaired the lining of airways.