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Abbott looking to Humira for psoriasis sales

Bloomberg News

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Abbott Laboratories, armed with a drug it says delivers better results and is easier to take, hopes to take sales from Amgen Inc. in the \$3 billion-a-year market for treating the skin disorder psoriasis.

Abbott said Wednesday that its test results show its Humira is almost twice as effective as Amgen's Enbrel. It also says it is more convenient because patients can self-administer Humira twice a month instead of once or twice a week for Enbrel. Enbrel was approved in April 2004 for psoriasis; Humira has not been cleared for psoriasis treatment by federal regulators.

"The drug at the head of the class is Enbrel, but Humira may now give them a run for the money," said Robert Kalb, a dermatologist at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine in New York.

North Chicago-based Abbott expects psoriasis sales of Humira, its fastest-growing drug, to reach \$500 million a year after the Food and Drug Administration approves it for treating psoriasis.

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