



New Drug

Suzetrigine (*Journavx*)

Why it matters:

Suzetrigine is the first medication in a new class of non-opioid analgesics to be approved in over 2 decades. It's an oral selective sodium channel blocker that prevents pain signals from reaching the brain. Unlike opioids, suzetrigine doesn't pose risks of abuse, misuse, etc.

What else to know:



Suzetrigine reduces acute pain significantly better and faster than placebo, and about as well as hydrocodone/acetaminophen, after a tummy tuck or bunion removal. It's too soon to say how well suzetrigine works for other types of pain (chronic, etc) or across a broad population.

Manufacturer	Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated
Approved use	Treatment of moderate to severe acute pain in adults
Approval date	January 2025
Anticipated availability	March 2025
Dosage and administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 mg (two 50 mg tablets) orally on an empty stomach as a loading dose, then 1 tablet every 12 hours with or without food• Dosage adjustments needed in patients who have liver impairment or who are taking moderate CYP3A inhibitors• Food or drink containing grapefruit should be avoided
Storage requirements	Store at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C)
Prescribing information	<u>Journavx Manufacturer</u>



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References:

- Jones J, Correll DJ, Lechner SM, et al. VX21-548-101 and VX21-548-102 Trial Groups. Selective Inhibition of NaV1.8 with VX-548 for Acute Pain. *N Engl J Med*. 2023 Aug 3;389(5):393-405.
- Product information for suzetrigine (Journavx). Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. Boston, MA 02210. January 2025.

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