

Catabasis starts trial for diabetes treatment

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Cambridge biotech startup Catabasis Pharmaceuticals Inc. has begun a Phase 1 clinical trial of CAT-1004, the company's lead product candidate that is intended to treat patients with Type 2 diabetes by going after the inflammation that is potentially causing it, the company said in a news release.

The company has been on a rapid upward trajectory since its founding in 2008 and its 2010 Series A funding round that brought in \$40 million.

The trial is expected to test the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetic profile of CAT-1004, which is formed from the essential omega-3 fatty acid docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and salicylate that have shown anti-inflammatory activity.

According to an earlier report with co-founder and CEO Jill Milne, the novel small molecule drug, which would also be an oral therapy, would not just treat blood glucose levels like other drugs on the market, but is designed to have a disease-modifying effect.

Privately held Catabasis is backed by Advanced Technology Ventures, Clarus Ventures, MedImmune Ventures and SV Life Sciences.