



The fund received a 4-star Overall Morningstar Rating as of 3/31/22 among 141 funds in the Health category (IB shares, based on risk-adjusted returns)



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Portfolio Manager
(industry since 2002)

Objective

The fund seeks capital appreciation.

Benchmark

MSCI World Health Care Index (ND)

Current unit value

Class IA: \$17.43
Class IB: \$16.64

Net assets

\$167.64M

Number of holdings

46

Putnam VT Global Health Care Fund

Investing in the health care sector

A dynamic sector

From biotech and drugs to devices and hospitals, the fund invests in industries that can profit from the global demand for health care products and services.

Seeks growth from innovation

Innovative health care solutions are always in demand, giving the fund potential for positive returns regardless of economic conditions.

Active management

Supported by experienced research analysts, the portfolio manager uses bottom-up research to assess scientific innovation, regulatory changes, and company fundamentals.

Top 10 holdings

UnitedHealth	8.79%
AbbVie	6.33
AstraZeneca	5.27
Johnson & Johnson	4.70
Thermo Fisher Scientific	4.33
Danaher	4.29
Abbott Laboratories	3.62
Roche	3.62
Anthem	3.28
Pfizer	3.13

Holdings represent 47.36% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

Market-cap breakdown

Over \$69B	68.14%
\$16B-\$69B	15.28
\$3.4B-\$16B	4.53
\$1B-\$3.4B	6.98
Less than \$1B	2.50
Cash and other assets	2.58

“Cash and other assets” includes cash, short-term securities, ETFs, bonds excluding convertible bonds, and other securities not able to be classified by market capitalization.

Risk (IB shares, as of 3/31/22)

Beta	0.98
Tracking error	3.28%
Up capture ratio	100.00%
Down capture ratio	97.43%

Country weightings

	Underweight	Overweight	Portfolio	Benchmark
Ireland		2.6	2.6%	0.0%
Denmark		2.2	5.4	3.2
France		1.1	2.9	1.8
Canada		1.0	1.0	0.0
United Kingdom		0.9	5.3	4.4
Netherlands	-0.7		0.0	0.7
Germany	-1.3		0.8	2.1
Australia	-1.7		0.0	1.7
Switzerland	-2.3		6.1	8.4
Japan	-2.6		1.7	4.3
Other countries			71.6	73.3

Cash and net other assets represent 2.6% of the portfolio. Due to rounding, percentages may not equal 100%.

Top active weights

Top 5 overweights	Portfolio	Benchmark	Over/under
Ironwood Pharmaceuticals	3.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Ascendis Pharma	3.0	0.0	3.0
Innoviva	2.8	0.0	2.8
Icon	2.6	0.0	2.6
AbbVie	6.3	3.8	2.5

Top 5 underweights	Portfolio	Benchmark	Over/under
Bristol-Myers Squibb	0.0%	2.1%	-2.1%
Amgen	0.0	1.8	-1.8
Novartis	1.1	2.6	-1.5
Johnson & Johnson	4.7	6.2	-1.5
GlaxoSmithKline	0.0	1.4	-1.4

The MSCI World Health Care Index (ND) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets in the health care sector. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Capture ratios are used to evaluate how well an investment manager performed relative to an index during specific periods (periods of positive return in the case of up capture, negative return in the case of down capture). The ratio is calculated by dividing the manager's returns by the returns of the index during the period and multiplying that factor by 100. **Turnover** is the rate at which the fund buys and sells securities each year. For example, if a fund's assets total \$100 million and the fund bought and sold \$100 million of securities that year, its portfolio turnover rate would be 100%. **Beta** is defined as a fund's sensitivity to market movements and is used to evaluate market related, or systematic, risk. It is a historical measure of the variability of return earned by an investment portfolio. Risk statistics are measured using a 5-year regression analysis. For funds with shorter track records, Since Inception analysis is used. **Tracking error** assesses how closely a fund's performance tracks that of the fund's benchmark by calculating the standard deviation of the difference between the fund's returns and its benchmark returns over a given time period, typically 5 years.

Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

**Not FDIC insured
May lose value
No bank guarantee**

Annual performance at net asset value (all distributions reinvested)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Class IA	41.98%	27.96%	8.06%	-11.14%	15.60%	-0.29%	30.58%	16.47%	19.77%	-2.19%
Class IB	41.66	27.64	7.79	-11.35	15.30	-0.59	30.29	16.28	19.40	-2.20
Benchmark	36.27	18.10	6.60	-6.81	19.80	2.51	23.24	13.52	19.80	-3.36

Annualized total return performance

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Life of fund
Class IA NAV (Inception 4/30/98)	16.13%	17.30%	13.54%	14.76%	8.18%
Class IB NAV (Inception 4/30/98)	15.85	17.02	13.26	14.49	7.93
Benchmark	14.94	14.42	12.90	13.26	—

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. All total return figures are at net asset value. The charges and expenses of the insurance company separate account level are not reflected. Class IA shares are offered at net asset value and are not subject to a distribution fee. Class IB shares are offered at net asset value and pay an ongoing distribution fee. To obtain the most recent month-end performance, contact your variable annuity provider, who has more information about their variable annuity and variable life products that invest in Putnam-managed products. For a portion of the period, this fund limited expenses, without which returns would have been lower.

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or “star rating,” is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product’s monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. Putnam VT Global Health Care Fund received 5, 4, and 3 stars for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods among 141, 131, and 109 Health funds, respectively.

Consider these risks before investing: International investing involves currency, economic, and political risks. Emerging market securities carry illiquidity and volatility risks. Investments in small and/or midsize companies increase the risk of greater price fluctuations. The healthcare industries may be affected by technological obsolescence; changes in regulatory approval policies for drugs, medical devices, or procedures; and changes in governmental and private payment systems. The fund concentrates on a limited group of industries and is non-diversified. Because the fund may invest in fewer issuers than a diversified fund, it is vulnerable to common economic forces and may result in greater losses and volatility.

Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound. The use of short selling may result in losses if the securities appreciate in value. Risks associated with derivatives include increased investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) and, in the case of over-the-counter instruments, the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations. The value of investments in the fund’s portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general economic, political, or financial market conditions; investor sentiment and market perceptions; government actions; geopolitical events or changes; and factors related to a specific issuer, geography, industry, or sector. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund’s portfolio holdings.

Our investment techniques, analyses, and judgments may not produce the outcome we intend. The investments we select for the fund may not perform as well as other securities that we do not select for the fund. We, or the fund’s other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could have a negative effect on the fund. You can lose money by investing in the fund.

Your clients should carefully consider the investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing. For a prospectus containing this and other information for any variable annuity or variable life product that invests in Putnam managed products, call the Putnam Client Engagement Center at 1-800-354-4000. Your clients should read the prospectus carefully before investing.

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