NOVARTIS AG Form SC 13D/A March 01, 2011

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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

## **SCHEDULE 13D/A**

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. 5)\*

# Alcon, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Shares, Par Value CHF 0.20 Per Share

(Title of Class of Securities)

#### H01301102

(CUSIP Number)

Thomas Werlen Group General Counsel Novartis AG CH-4056 Basel Switzerland 011-41-61-324-2745

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

#### February 25, 2011

(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(e), 13d-1(g), check the following box o.

**Note:** Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

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The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

## CUSIP No. H01301102

1.	Novartis A	AG ntificat	ing Persons on Nos. of above persons (entities only).
2.	Check the (a) o (b) ý	Appro	priate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)
3.	SEC Use	Only	
4.	Source of WC; OO	Funds	(See Instructions)
5.	Check if I	Disclos	ure of Legal Proceedings Is Required Pursuant to Items 2(d) or 2(e) o
6.	Citizenshi Switzerlar		ace of Organization
Numbe Shares Benefic		7.	Sole Voting Power 237,357,279
Owned Each Reporti		8.	Shared Voting Power 0
Person	With	9.	Sole Dispositive Power 237,357,279
		10.	Shared Dispositive Power 0
11.	Aggregate 237,357,2		nt Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

12.	Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) ý
13.	Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11) 78.5%
14.	Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) CO

This Amendment No. 5 (this "Amendment No. 5") is filed to report the acquisition of beneficial ownership of additional common shares of Alcon, Inc. It amends and supplements the statement on Schedule 13D originally filed by Novartis with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on July 14, 2008, as amended by Amendment No. 1 filed with the SEC on January 4, 2010, Amendment No. 2 filed with the SEC on August 30, 2010, Amendment No. 3 filed with the SEC on December 15, 2010 and Amendment No. 4 filed with the SEC on February 9, 2011. Except as set forth below, all Items of the Schedule 13D, as amended (the "Schedule 13D"), remain unchanged.

#### ITEM 3. SOURCE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDS OR OTHER CONSIDERATION

Between February 10, 2011 and February 28, 2011, Novartis purchased a total of 3,580,000 Shares, at a total cost of \$590,180,965. Novartis financed the acquisition of such Shares from available cash resources and short- and long-term financing.

#### ITEM 5. INTEREST IN SECURITIES OF THE ISSUER

Item 5(a) of the Schedule 13D is hereby amended by inserting the following after the first paragraph:

Between February 10, 2011 and February 28, 2011, Novartis acquired an additional approximately 3,580,000 Shares on the New York Stock Exchange at a weighted-average price of \$164.86, bringing its ownership to 237,357,279 Shares, or approximately 78.5% of the 302,371,030 Shares that were issued and outstanding at February 23, 2011, based on information supplied by Alcon to Novartis.

#### **SIGNATURE**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the undersigned hereby certify as of February 28, 2011 that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

#### **NOVARTIS AG**

By: /s/ JONATHAN SYMONDS

Name: Jonathan Symonds Title: *Chief Financial Officer* 

**NOVARTIS AG** 

By: /s/ DR. THOMAS WERLEN

Name: Dr. Thomas Werlen
Title: Group General Counsel

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## QuickLinks

ITEM 3. SOURCE AND AMOUNT OF FUNDS OR OTHER CONSIDERATION ITEM 5. INTEREST IN SECURITIES OF THE ISSUER SIGNATURE