

Equivalence Testing of Inhalation Products

Darragh Murnane Centre for Research in Topical Drug Delivery & Toxicology





On 30 March 2015, the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and The Aerosol Society held an academic-industrial workshop to develop a roadmap for in vitro equivalence research.

"Bioequivalence of Orally Inhaled Drug Products: Establishing the Scientific Basis for Regulatory Acceptance of In Vitro Strategies"

Some contents of this lecture include information presented by speakers at the workshop including: **Dr Alfredo García-Arieta** (AEMPS, Spanish regulator); **Dr Burak Ozsogut** (Neutec R&D); **Dr Peter Daley Yates** (GlaxoSmithKline); **Prof. Robert Price** (University of Bath), & **Dr Philippe Rogueda** (Aedestra Consulting).

Their contribution is acknowledged at the outset of this talk, and their slides are acknowledged when they appear.





Principles of Topical Inhaled Bioequivalence







The Stepwise Approach to Demonstration of Equivalence

A decision-tree logic





The marketing approval context

Examples of UK 'Generic' products (courtesy of Philippe Rogueda)

Salbutamol

- 3 pMDI
- 6 DPI

Formoterol fumarate

- 1 pMDI
- 4 DPI

Beclomethasone dipropionate

- 2 pMDI
- 4 DPI

Budesonide • 7 DPI

- Most of the approved products were actually filed as branded products not true generics
- Their interchangeability for all patients is not guaranteed

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A selection of EMA-approved 'equivalent' products

Dry powder inhalers offer a specific challenge (Philippe Rogueda)

Product	In vitro BE	PK/PD Studies	PIF Studies
Rolenium	×	4	\checkmark
Seroflo pMDI	×	2	\checkmark
Airflusal	×	5	\checkmark
DuoResp	×	11	\checkmark
Formoterol DPI	\checkmark	×	\checkmark

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Key Factors Determining Drug Delivery to Pharmacologic Target Sites in the Lung







Assessing the evidence base for stepwise approaches (B Ozsogut) Justifying the use of *in vitro* data to demonstrate equivalence



Key factors determining drug delivery to local target sites Where does the drug go and how will this affect absorption?

• Dose

- Dose released from device and delivered to the lung
- Dose released from device that reaches the GI tract
- Central vs. peripheral deposition
- Different dissolution medium, clearance, different permeabilities



Key factors determining drug delivery to local target sites

The impact of particle size distribution on lung deposition sites

Particle Size > 6µm

Mostly - mouth/oral-pharyngeal deposition, high mucocilary clearance, and swallowed particles.

Particle Size 2 - 6µm Mostly - upper/central airway deposition, some mucocilary clearance, systemic absorption

Particle Size < 2µm

Greater - peripheral airways /alveoli penetration, more exhaled, less deposition, less mucocilary clearance more systemic absorption



Hussain et al. theHealth 2011; 2(2):51-59

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In-Vitro Testing for Demonstration of Equivalence of Inhalation Products







Assessing the evidence base for stepwise approaches

Justifying the use of in vitro data to demonstrate equivalence



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

> London, 22 April 2004 CPMP/EWP/4151/00

COMMITTEE FOR PROPRIETARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (CPMP)

POINTS TO CONSIDER ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR ORALLY INHALED PRODUCTS (OIP)

DISCUSSION IN THE EFFICAY WORKING PARTY	September 2000
TRANSMISSION TO CPMP	January 2002
RELEASE FOR CONSULTATION	January 2002
DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS	April 2002
DISCUSSION IN THE EFFICACY WORKING PARTY	January 2004
TRANSMISSION TO CPMP	April 2004
ADOPTION BY CPMP	April 2004
DATE FOR COMING INTO OPERATION	October 2004

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European Medicines Agency Pre-authorisation Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

> London, 22 January 2009 Doc. Ref. CPMP/EWP/4151/00 Rev. 1

COMMITTEE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN USE (CHMP)

GUIDELINE ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR ORALLY INHALED PRODUCTS (OIP) INCLUDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEMONSTRATION OF THERAPEUTIC EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN TWO INHALED PRODUCTS FOR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF ASTHMA AND CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD) IN ADULTS AND FOR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF ASTHMA IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

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ADOPTION BY CHMP FOR RELEASE FOR CONSULTATION REV. 1	18 October 2007
END OF CONSULTATION (DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS)	30 April 2008
REV. 1 AGREED BY EFFICACY WORKING PARTY	January 2009
ADOPTION BY CHMP	22 January 2009
DATE FOR COMING INTO EFFECT	1 August 2009





Pharmaceutical properties and the need for a clinical programme

Examining the *in vitro* testing opportunities

Well Known Active Substance

The use of ONLY comparative in vitro data for this purpose is considered acceptable if;

- \checkmark the product contains the same active substance
- ✓ the physical state of the active substance is the same (dissolved or suspended)
- ✓ the pharmaceutical dosage form is the same
- ✓ any qualitative and/or quantitative difference in excipients should not influence the performance of the product, should not change the safety profile of the product,
- ? the target delivered dose should be similar (within +/- 15%)
- ? the qualitative and/or quantitative difference in excipients are known to have no influence on the deposition characteristics (e.g. Delivered Dose, FPD, MMAD, GSD) and on the inhalation behaviour of the patient (This should be justified for each excipient taking into account its amount.)
- ? the inhalation device has the same resistance to airflow (within +/- 15%)
- the inhalation device is identical in all parts which influence performance
- the inhaled volume through the device to enable a sufficient amount of active substance into the lungs should be similar (within +/- 15%)
- handling of the inhalation devices for the test and reference products in order to release the required amount of the active substance should be similar,







In vitro characterization techniques for delivered dose and size Inertial impactors provide fine level size distribution data



In vitro characterization techniques for delivered dose and size

A range of devices exist for assessment of inhalable dose



Twin Stage impinger University of Hertfordshire



Multi stage liquid impinger



Andersen Cascade Impactor





Outcome of in vitro inertial impaction and delivered dose assessment

Measurement does discriminate PK performance (P Daley Yates GSK)



Framework

An Example of In-Vitro Demonstration of Bioequivalence







An example of successful *in vitro* only filing from Spain Data taken from Dr. Alfredo García – Arieta

- Ipratropium Bromide HFA pMDI
- Same composition Q₁ and Q₂
- Same valve
- Different canister size
- Different mouth adaptor

Reference (Atrovent) vs. Generic











Aerodynamic Particle Size Distribution

Data taken from Dr. Alfredo García – Arieta @APS Inhalation 2015

Distribución del tamaño de las partículas



Aerodynamic Particle Size Distribution: No pooling of stage Data

Data taken from Dr. Alfredo García – Arieta

NGI	Size range (µm)	Test/Ref (%)	90% CI Limit	Acceptance (85-115%)
MOC	<0.541	97.8	101.2-94.4	Compliant
Stage 7	0.541-0.834	105.5	108.6-102.4	Compliant
Stage 6	0.834-1.357	106.0	108.9-103.3	Compliant
Stage 5	1.357-2.299	109.7	113.1-106.5	Compliant
Stage 4	2.999-3.988	105.7	112.7-99.2	Compliant
Stage 3	3.988-6.395	96.4	107.4-86.5	Compliant
Stage 2	6.395-11.719	87.3	97.0-78.6	Not compliant
Stage 1	>11.719	108.4	114.7-102.3	Compliant
Throat	-	107.4	109.3-105.4	Compliant
Actuator	-	80.4	85.4-75.7	Not compliant







Aerodynamic Particle Size Distribution

Data taken from Dr. Alfredo García – Arieta @APS Inhalation 2015

Distribución del tamaño de las partículas



Stage Pooling – the rationale: Dr. Alfredo García – Arieta

- The <u>comparison</u> should be performed <u>per impactor</u> <u>stage or justified group of stages</u>.
 - Stage pooling decreases sensitivity
- At least 4 groups of stages are expected.
 - Based on MSLI a legacy impinger with fewer stages.







In vitro characterization techniques for delivered dose and size

A range of devices exist for assessment of inhalable dose



eparator) (pr Stage Stage Stag ge 5 (filter) -S U Outlet Multi stage liquid impinger



Andersen Cascade Impactor





Twin Stage impinger University of Hertfordshire

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 - Stage pooling decreases sensitivity
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 - Based on MSLI a legacy impinger with fewer stages.
- Issue how to justify the stage groupings
 - Can impactor/impinger data ever reflect deposition sites in the lungs?
 - What is the size class that correlates to deposition (<3µm?)







Aerodynamic Particle Size Distribution: With pooling of stage data

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Stage 3+4	2.999-3.988	105.5	113.2-98.3	Compliant
Stage 1+2	3.988-6.395	106.5	113.1-100.4	Compliant







Sample selection issues in demonstrating equivalence Sample size will really affect your chance of success (or failure)

- <u>At least three</u> consecutive batches of the test product and three batches of the reference product should be tested.
 - Which reference product batches do you chose?
 - More batches to reflect product variability
 - No real ethical issues for *in vitro* sample size
 - Number of canisters / batch not specified
 - Number of determinations / canister not specified
 - Actuations in different times of life cycle not specified







Outcome of stepwise demonstration of equivalence (B Ozsogut) Understanding the scope for *in vitro* equivalency comparisons



BEING GENERIC MEANS BEING SIMILAR

YES / PK

We can measure drug levels in plasma w/wo charcoal YES / PD We can measure efficacy

NOT YET

Promising techniques being validated

YES

Cascade impactor measurements gives detail results on APSD

YES

We can measure delivered dose precisely







Outcome of stepwise demonstration of equivalence (B Ozsogut)

Understanding failure with in vitro equivalency comparisons



CHALLENGE TO SHOWING EQUIVALENCE IS IN THE DETAIL

PK Dosing manoeuvre is the key Statistics should count reference variation PD not sensitive

No pharmacopeial method available

Needs to be validated against invitro & in-vivo data Analytical Method Variation

Reference Product Variation Analytical Method Variation

Reference Product Variation





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Human Factors Issues for Inhaled Product Performance and Designing User-Focussed Testing Approaches







Pharmaceutical properties and the need for a clinical programme

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In vitro/in vivo comparisons in pulmonary drug delivery

But key doubts remain over in vitro-in vivo correlations

"few published data that relate APSD to the clinical response of inhaled drugs in an unambiguous way"

Newman and Chan; J Aerosol Med. 21 (2008) 77-84



In vitro FPD may over-estimate WLD







In vitro/in vivo comparisons in pulmonary drug delivery

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In vitro FPD may over-estimate WLD

Better correlation for extra-fine particle dose (< 3 µm)
Slow moving aerosol products achieve over-lap





In vitro/in vivo comparisons in pulmonary drug delivery

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In vitro FPD may over-estimate WLD

Better correlation for extra-fine particle dose (< 3 µm)
Slow moving aerosol products achieve over-lap
Simulating throat anatomy at inlet may offer better correlation
Clear link between inter-patient variability in WLD and the extent of oropharyngeal deposition





Borgstrom et al; J Aerosol Med. 19 (2006) 473-483





Moving toward patient-focussed *in vitro* testing approaches Improving modelling of the throat for *in vitro* data

Low resistance device

High resistance device



Ehtezazi et al. J. Pharm. Sci. (2005) 94: 1418-1426

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Finlay, WH Experiments in Fluids 2004, 37: 673-689





Moving toward patient-focussed *in vitro* testing approaches

Can 'inhalation' maneuver be made more physiologically accurate?



•Not every patient in our volunteer or clinical study will inhale at the same/optimal flow rate & variability is highest for high resistance devices

•Should we test at the actual peak flow? Should we use real breath profiles?

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When is a DPI a generic or an equivalent branded product? DPIs that differ in resistance, handling and inhalation volume



•QC Aerosolization Volume: 4 L, lasting 2.7 s or 4.0 s

2 Products X 2 profiles



•Simulated inhalations:

- •Product 1: 1.1 & 2.6 L,
- lasting 2.7 & 2.1 s
- •Product 2: 1.4 & 2.9 L,
- lasting 3.0 & 2.0 s



Murnane et al. Unpublished Data (2014) APSGB-Aerosol Society Symposium.





Employing clinically-relevant models improves deposition prediction But does not guarantee in vitro in vivo correlation for PK data



Olsson et al. J. Aerosol Med. (2013) 26: 355-369; Olsson et al. (2013) DDL 25; Backman & Olsson, IPAC-RS Orlando Meeting (2014); Backman et al. Clin. Pharmacol. Ther. (2014) 95: 509-520

Patient-focussed testing offers a robust approach to compare between devices







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Patient-focussed testing offers a robust approach to compare between devices







Key factors determining drug delivery to lung sites: It's not just size! The deposition site, release and absorption are inter-linked



Per Gerde, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. DDL 2014

Questions raised:

- 1. Density of deposited material on the test surface
- 2. Deposition pattern affecting the deposited mass

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Further questions:

- 1. Properties dictating deposition
- 2. Properties dictating release
- 3. Properties dictating transport & absorption away from target site





Physiologically-based assessment of inhaled dose

The inhalation profile and device design affect aerosol bolus profile



Time post start of inhalation

Aerosol emission rate depends on device design and total dose. Even for patients with identical PIFs, drug may enter different lung volumes

B.L. Laube et al. Eur Respir J 2011;37:1308-1417







Physiologically-based assessment of inhaled dose

Deposition of aerosol is determined by the volume of inhalation





Aerosols particles contained in volume elements penetrate to different depths Particle deposition increases with its depth (V) of penetration







Our current work in this area

- Engineering of generic devices to better control the emission point of the aerosol in the inhalation profile
- Can inhalation profile modelling be employed to match volunteers for T & R products?
- A 5-year study is beginning to develop in vitro deposition methods that better predict regional deposition in the lung, not just whole lung deposition.







Patient-focused testing of physical device handling issues







Most reports into the use of pMDIs in the elderly focus on the cognitive ability of individuals to learn and co-ordinate actuation with inhalation ¹

A few as 29 % of older patients possessed sufficient strength to fire all marketed pMDIs²

As many as 36 % of older patients unable to actuate any pMDI²

¹Rau, 2006, Respiratory Care 51(2) ²Armitage and Williams 1988, Age and Ageing 17(4)







Assessing the mechanical actuation process for pMDIs



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Identifying mechanical events during actuation



Force displacement using linear variable displacement transducer









Time and duration of actuation event

Inhaler	Time to actuation (seconds)	Duration of actuation (seconds)
Ventolin Rapid	0.143	0.121
Ventolin Slow	1.226	0.303
Clenil Rapid	0.135	0.188
Clenil Slow	2.905	0.319
QVAR Rapid	0.594	0.197
QVAR Slow	2.853	0.313







Poor coordination may not an issue of cognition for patients with impaired manual dexterity









Our current work in this area

 Human factors study, funded by the USA Food and Drug administration to investigate how device mechanical features may impact on the perception of difference between inhalation products.







Thank you for your attention!

- In vitro equivalence testing APS Inhalation Bioequivalence Workshop speakers, Garcia-Arieta, Ozsogut, Daley-Yates, Ozsogut, Price & Rogueda, and deposition data Dr Farnaz Esmaeili (KCL)
- **MDI Device Handling Study** Akshay Patel (University of Hertfordshire)
- EPSRC for funding D Murnane and ongoing work EP/N025075/1 Other associated funding: Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership & Dept for BEIS Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government







