

Complex Injectable and Implantable Drug Products: Bioequivalence Considerations

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Parenteral Drug Products

- Injections and implanted drug products
	- Injected through the skin or other external boundary tissue

- Implanted within the body to allow the direct administration of the active drug substances into blood vessels, organs, tissues, or lesions

• Routes of administration intravenous (i.v.), intramuscular (i.m.), subcutaneous (s.c.), intraventricular, intra-arterial, intra-articular, intrathecal, intracisternal, and intraocular

FDA Bioequivalence (BE) Approaches

Approaches to Determining Bioequivalence (21 CFR 320.24)

- In vivo pharmacokinetic comparison
- In vivo pharmacodynamic comparison
- In vivo clinical comparison
- In vitro comparison
- Any other approach deemed appropriate by

Parenteral solution

- Same active ingredients, strength, dosage form
- Qualitatively (Q1) and quantitatively (Q2) the same for the inactive ingredients
- In vivo BE study waived (320.22(b)(1)

Tablets/capsules

- Same active ingredients, strength, dosage form
- Can have different inactive ingredients/design/release mechanisms
- Pharmacokinetic study preferred to demonstrate bioequivalence

FDA **Bioequivalence approaches for complex injectable and implantable products?**

Bioequivalence Demonstration of Complex Injectable and Implantable Drug Products

- Product complexity
- Current FDA approaches for BE demonstration
- Recent scientific and regulatory advances with the support of GDUFA funding

GDUFA: Generic Drug User Fee Amendment

GUDFA regulatory science

[https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumer](https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/GenericDrugs/ucm567695.htm) s/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/GenericDrugs/ucm56769 5.htm **www.fda.gov**

Injectable Emulsion Drug Products

Emulsion: Dispersion made up of two immiscible liquid phases which are mixed using mechanical shear and stabilized with surfactant

Types of Emulsions:

Oil in Water (O/W) Water in Oil (W/O) Water-in-Oil-in-Water (W/O/W) Oil-in-Water-in Oil (O/W/O) **www.fda.gov**

Complexity

- Complex formulation
- Some products intended for local action

Injectable Emulsion Drug Products Bioequivalence Demonstration

In vitro option In vivo option

- **Formulation** qualitatively (Q1) and quantitatively (Q2) the same
- Acceptable comparative physico-chemical characterization
- Acceptable comparative in vitro release

- Permissible non-Q1/Q2 formulation (21CFR 314.94(b)(9)(iii))
- In vivo pharmacokinetic BE study or comparative clinical endpoint BE study

Challenges

- Emulsion globule size comparison
- Development of discriminative in vitro release method
- Insensitive clinical endpoint

Product-Specific Guidance for Propofol Emulsion

Active Ingredient: Propofol **Dosage Form; Route:** Injectable; injection **Strength:** 10 mg/ mL **Recommended Study:** Two options: In vitro or In vivo studies

I. In vitro option:

To qualify for the in vitro option for this drug product pursuant to 21 CFR 320.24 (b)(6), under which "any other approach deemed adequate by FDA to measure bioavailability or establish bioequivalence" may be acceptable for determining the bioavailability or bioequivalence (BE) of a drug product, all the following criteria should be met:

i. The Test and Reference Listed Drug (RLD) formulations are qualitatively and quantitatively the same $(Q1/Q2)$.

ii. Acceptable comparative physicochemical characterization of the Test and RLD formulations. The comparative study should be performed on at least three exhibit lots of both Test and Reference products.

Parameters to measure: Globule size distribution, viscosity profile as a function of applied shear, pH, zeta potential of the formulation and at physiological pH, osmolality, free acid concentration, and amount of propofol partitioned in the aqueous and oil phases.

The sponsor should also demonstrate that the test product is stable when diluted with 5% Dextrose Injection USP, according to label instructions. **Bioequivalence based on (95% upper confidence bound):** Population bioequivalence (PBE) based on D50 and SPAN (alternatively harmonic intensity weighted average particle diameter and polydispersity index derived from cumulant analysis of the intensity size distribution) for the globule size distribution only

iii. Acceptable comparative in vitro drug release rate tests from 12 units of each of the test and RLD formulations. An in vivo pharmacokinetic bioequivalence study is requested for any generic propofol injection, 10 mg/mL that has a different inactive ingredient from the RLD4 or unacceptable data from in vitro comparative studies.

__ II. In vivo option:

Type of study: Fasting Design: Single-dose, two-way crossover in vivo Strength: 10 mg/mL Dose rate: 30 mcg/kg/min Subjects: Healthy males, non-pregnant and non-lactating females, general population 18 to 55 years of age **Analytes to measure (in appropriate biological fluid):** Propofol in plasma **Bioequivalence based on (90% CI):** Propofol https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM506910.pdf **www.fda.gov**

Statistic Method for a Whole Profile Analysis of Emulsion Globule Size

The AAPS Journal (2018) 20: 62 DOI: 10.1208/s12248-018-0212-v

Research Article

Equivalence Testing of Complex Particle Size Distribution Profiles Based on Earth Mover's Distance

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Abstract. Particle size distribution (PSD) is an important property of particulates in drug products. In the evaluation of generic drug products formulated as suspensions, emulsions, and liposomes, the PSD comparisons between a test product and the branded product can provide useful information regarding in vitro and in vivo performance. Historically, the FDA has recommended the population bioequivalence (PBE) statistical approach to compare the PSD descriptors D50 and SPAN from test and reference products to support product equivalence. In this study, the earth mover's distance (EMD) is proposed as a new metric for comparing PSD particularly when the PSD profile exhibits complex distribution (e.g., multiple peaks) that is not accurately described by the D50 and SPAN descriptor. EMD is a statistical metric that measures the discrepancy (distance) between size distribution profiles without a prior assumption of the distribution. PBE is then adopted to perform statistical test to establish equivalence based on the calculated EMD distances. Simulations show that proposed EMD-based approach is effective in comparing test and reference profiles for equivalence testing and is superior compared to commonly used distance measures, e.g., Euclidean and Kolmogorov-Smirnov distances. The proposed approach was demonstrated by evaluating equivalence of cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion PSDs that were manufactured under different conditions. Our results show that proposed approach can effectively pass an equivalent product (e.g., reference product against itself) and reject an inequivalent product (e.g., reference product against negative control), thus suggesting its usefulness in supporting bioequivalence determination of a test product to the reference product which both possess multimodal PSDs.

KEY WORDS: earth mover's distance; equivalence test; particle size distribution; profile comparison.

Pulsatile Microdialysis (PMD) for Dissolution of Emulsion Drug Products

Fig. 1. A schematic diagram of a microdialysis probe.

Shah, KB et al., Int J Pharm 468 (2014) 64-74.

In Vitro Release Testing of Cyclosporine Emulation Formulations

Amount per Area Released from Window: 35 C

Amount per Area Released from Window: 100% RLD

Q1/Q2 cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsions containing 50%, 100%, 150% drug load relative to the RLD (left), or 100% drug load relative to the RLD (right). The x-axis corresponds to resting time, and the y-axis is the amount of cyclosporine released from the PMD probe window per area. The receiver medium was either (A) kept at 35 °C or (B) varied between 20 °C, 32 °C, and 35 °C. Data points represent the average from three replicates ± standard deviation. Courtesy of Robert Bellantone, Physical Pharmaceutica, LLC.

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Liposome Drug Products

Liposome: Microvesicle composed of a bilayer and/or a concentric series of multiple bilayers separated by aqueous compartments formed by amphipathic molecules such as phospholipids that enclose a central aqueous compartment **www.fda.gov**

Complexity

- Complex formulation and lipid excipients
- Complex manufacturing process
- Scale up challenges
- Complex in vivo behavior

Injectable Liposome Drug Products Bioequivalence Demonstration

Product-Specific Guidance for Doxorubicin HCl Liposome Injection

To be eligible for the bioequivalence studies recommended in this guidance, the Test product should meet the following criteria:

- Qualitatively $(Q1)^1$ and quantitatively $(Q2)^2$ the same as the Reference Listed Drug (RLD)
- Manufactured by an active liposome loading process with an ammonium sulfate gradient
- At least one batch of the Test product should be produced by the commercial scale process and be used in the in vivo bioequivalence study
- Equivalent liposome characteristics including liposome composition, state of encapsulated drug, internal environment of liposome, liposome size distribution, number of lamellar, grafted PEG at the liposome surface, electrical surface potential or charge, and in vitro leakage rates comparable to the Reference Standard (RS).

In Vivo Study:

Type of study: Fasting* Design: Single-dose, two-way crossover in vivo Strength: 50 mg/vial or 20 mg/vial Dose: 50 mg/m2 Subjects: Ovarian cancer patients whose disease has progressed or recurred after platinum-based chemotherapy and who are already receiving or scheduled to start therapy on doxorubicin hydrochloride (liposomal).

In Vitro Study:

1. Type of study: Liposome Size Distribution

> Design: In vitro bioequivalence study on at least three lots of both Test and RS product. At least one lot of the Test product should be produced by the proposed commercial scale manufacturing process.

https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM199635.pdf **www.fda.gov**

Product-Specific Guidance for Doxorubicin HCl Liposome Injection

In vitro leakage under multiple conditions: In vitro drug leakage testing to characterize the \bullet physical state of the lipid bilayer and encapsulated doxorubicin should be investigated to support a lack of uncontrolled leakage under a range of physiological conditions and equivalent drug delivery to the tumor cells. Below are some examples of proposed conditions.

Table 1. Examples of in vitro leakage conditions of doxorubicin liposomes

https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM199635.pdf **www.fda.gov**

USP Apparatus 4-Flow Through Cell Dissolution for Liposome Drug Products

http://www.teknokroma.es/UserFiles/Test%20Disolucion/SOTAX%20CE%207smart.pdf **www.fda.gov**

Selection of Dissolution Media for Amphotericin B Liposomes

An addition of 5% w/v of γ-cyclodextrin to the release media of 5% sucrose, 10 mM HEPES, and 0.01% NaN3 (pH = 7.4) prevented Amp B precipitation and facilitated drug release.

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Fig. 1. The effect of solubilizer addition to the release media on Amp B release from AmBisome® in the single-unit vial-based IVR assay at 45 °C, including 5% HP-CD (a), 10% IPA (b), 0.25% SDS (c) or 5% γ-CD (d). Lines represent: A. AmBisome® in Float-A-Lyzer® (●); B. Free Amp B solution in Float-A-Lyzer® (■); C. Free Amp B in release medium (▴). The final Amp B concentration in the release media is 10 µg/mL for all the groups

Tang J et al. Development of a flow-through USP 4 apparatus drug release assay for the evaluation of amphotericin B liposome. European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics 134 (2019) 107–116 This work was supported by FDA grant U01FD005249-01. **www.fda.gov**

In Vitro Drug Release from Different Amphotericin B Drug Products

Fig. 5. The cumulative release of different commercial Amp B formulations on Sotax® at 55 °C. 5% γ-CD was added into media, and total Amp B concentration is 10 µg/mL for all the groups based on reported package insert drug concentrations.

Fig. 6. The cumulative release of different liposomal Amp B formulations prepared by extrusion and homogenization from Z1P on Sotax® at 55 °C. 5% γ-CD was added into media, and total Amp B concentration is 10 µg/mL for all the groups.

Tang J et al. Development of a flow-through USP 4 apparatus drug release assay for the evaluation of amphotericin B liposome. European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics 134 (2019) 107–116

This work was supported by FDA grant U01FD005249-01. **www.fda.gov**

Challenges and Solutions for In-Vivo Bioequivalence Study of Cytarabine Liposomes

Generic Name: Cytarabine liposome injection

Indication and Regimen:

50 mg, administered intrathecally (intraventricular or lumbar puncture) every 14 days for treatment of lymphomatous meningitis

There is sustained release of cytarabine from the liposomes and the terminal half-life of free cytarabine was prolonged in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).

Bioequivalence Study Challenges

- Difficult to enroll patients
- Intensive PK sampling from CSF is not feasible
- High inter- and intra-individual variability

Model-based Bioequivalence Method for Cytarabine Liposomes

Consolidation

The model-based BE evaluation method with a minimal 20 subjects and a widened BE limit of 60.00–166.67% provided reasonable statistical power and type-I error rate.

Ken Ogasawara, Alejandro Pérez-Pitarch, Jia Chen, Myong-Jin Kim, Liang Zhao, Lanyan Fang. Bioequivalence Evaluation for a Complex Drug Product, Cytarabine Liposome Injection, Using Modeling and Simulation Approaches. American Conference of Pharmacometrics 2018, San Diego, CA

Long-acting Polymeric Microspheres, In-Situ Gels, and Implants

Poly (lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) Microspheres

Complexity

- Complex formulation and polymeric excipients ingredients
- Complex manufacturing process
- Scale up challenges
- Long residence in vivo

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Long-acting Polymeric Microspheres Bioequivalence Demonstration

• Formulation Q1 and Q2 the same

• In vivo pharmacokinetic BE study

In Vivo Option Equivalence Challenges

Formulation sameness

• Demonstrate Q1 and Q2 sameness of the polymeric excipients

Discriminative in vitro release within reasonable timeframe

Bioequivalence studies

- Long duration
- Conventional BE matrix may not be sufficient to capture multiphasic in vivo release

Product-Specific Guidance for Risperidone Suspension

Bioequivalence based on (90% CI): $T_{50\%}$. The 90% confidence interval of the test/reference ratio of $T_{50\%}$ should be within 80-125%.

Type of study: In vivo, two-period, crossover steady-state 2^{1} Strength: 12.5 mg/vial, 25 mg/vial, 37.5 mg/vial, 50 mg/vial Subjects: Male and nonpregnant female patients with schizophrenia or bipolar I disorder who are already receiving a stable regimen of risperidone long-acting injection via the intramuscular route. Patients who are receiving any dosage regimen of risperidone longacting injection every two weeks would be eligible to participate in the study by continuing their established maintenance dose. Additional comments: FDA recommends that studies not be conducted using healthy subjects or patients on a different antipsychotic treatment. All strengths of the test product need to be from the same bulk in order for all strengths of the Test to be administered in the PK BE study.

Analytes to measure (in appropriate biological fluid): Risperidone in plasma

Consideration on PLGA Sameness

• **Characterization of PLGA**

- Polymer composition (L to G ratio)
- Molecular weight and weight distribution
- Polymer architecture (linear vs star-shaped)
- Intrinsic viscosity
- Glass transition temperature
- Polymer end-cap
- Crystallinity

Garnera J et al. A protocol for assay of poly(lactide-co-glycolide) in clinical products. International Journal of Pharmaceutics 495 (2015) 87–92. This work was supported by FDA grant U01FD05168.

Poly(lactic-*co***-glycolic acid) (PLGA) copolymer**

PLGA

- m = number of units of lactic acid
- n = number of units of glycolic acid
- Ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid
- Molecular weight ~5kDa -100kDa

Glucose star polymer, D,L-lactic and glycolic acids copolymer

FDA Recommended Dissolution Methods for Microspheres

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/dissolution/

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In Vitro-In Vivo Correlation (IVIVC) of Parenteral Risperidone Polymeric Microspheres

Rele

iract

 1.0

 0.4

 0.2

 0.0

26 Shen J et al. In Vitro-in Vivo Correlation of Parenteral Risperidone Polymeric Microspheres. J Control Release. 218:2-12. (2015) This work was supported by FDA (1U01FD004931-01).

 12 16

Time (day)

In vivo release profile, n=6 -D- Predicted in vivo release profile

> 28 32

 0.4

 0.2

 0.0

 0.0

 0.2

 0.4

Fraction Released (in vitro)

 0.6

 0.8

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Drug Release from Implants

FIG. 1. Cumulative release of dexamethasone from 1piece and 3-piece dexamethasone intravitreal implants (DEX implants) in vitro. Results are expressed as mean percentage \pm standard deviation based on 6 replicates per time point.

FIG. 2. Cumulative release of dexamethasone in the vitreous humor of rabbits after implantation of 1-piece or 3piece DEX implants in the posterior segment of opposing eyes. Results are expressed as mean percentage \pm standard deviation based on 6 replicates per time point. $P = 0.025$ at day 1, but not significant at any other time point.

 12 15

9

Intact implants vs. Fragmented implants

Dexamethasone Released (%)

120

100

80

60

40

20

 Ω

3

6

Bhagat R. et al. Comparison of the release profile and pharmacokinetics of intact and fragmented dexamethasone intravitreal implants in rabbit eyes. J Ocular PharmacoTherap. 30: 854-858. 2014 **www.fda.gov**

Time After DEX Implantation (Days)

18

 21

24 27

30

 \rightarrow -1-piece

 -3 -piece

Summary

- Complex injectable and implantable drug products have unique complexity and challenges for generic development
- In vitro and/or in vivo options are recommended for bioequivalence demonstration of complex injectable and implantable drug products
- Significant progress made in bioequivalence demonstration of these products with the support of GDUFA research funding
	- In vitro release testing method development
	- Statistic method development for particle size profile comparison
	- Model-based bioequivalence method
	- Excipient sameness consideration
	- IVIVC development

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Thank You!

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