## Innovative trial designs including Bayesian approaches

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## **Learning Points**

- Dose is based on PK, PD and adverse effects
- Variability affects response to medicines
- Major sources of usual variability are maturation, size, drug interactions and genes
- Modelling and simulation, using Bayesian approaches, can be used to predict dose, demonstrate effect and inform future studies

## New Zealand: a land of sheep

4,000,000 people 40,000,000 sheep



## The Students in NZ



## Assumptions

- Basic understanding of population modelling
  - Underlying theme is variability and prior knowledge (Bayesian)
  - Amy Cheung PKPD
- Aware difficulties of study in children < 2 years

#### **Pharmacodynamics**



## **Population Approach**

# Describing the Signal and the Noise ... and it is the noise (variability) that is important



Anderson BJ. EJCP 2001

#### Mixed Effects Modelling

#### Fixed Effects (predictable variability)

Covariates and parameters e.g. renal function and clearance

#### Random Effects (unpredictable variability)

Parameter variability e.g. in clearance Residual error e.g. measurement error, process noise, model misspecification, assay error, transcription





#### **Minimisation successful**

Bourne D. mathematical modeling of PK data 1995

#### Population Modeling – a logical processor

#### NEX CUYANA Population 562 Flabour sea buel 2150 Established 1951 TOTAL 2663



#### Paediatric Studies Difficult



#### HHS Public Access

Author manuscript Pain. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2019 February 01.

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Clinical trial designs and models for analgesic medications for acute pain in neonates, infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents: ACTTION recommendations

Gary A. Walco<sup>a,b</sup>, Ernest A. Kopecky<sup>c,d</sup>, Steven J. Weisman<sup>e</sup> Pediatric Analgesic Clinical Trial Designs, Measures, Stevens<sup>d</sup>, Paul J. Desjardins<sup>f</sup>, Charles B. Berde<sup>g</sup>, Elliot J. Kri Myron Yaster, Carlton D. Dampier<sup>k</sup>, Robert H. Dworkin<sup>l</sup>, Ian and Extrapolation: Report of an FDA Scientific Lynne G. Maxwell<sup>n</sup>, Srinivasa Raja<sup>j</sup>, Bernard Schachtel<sup>o</sup>, and Workshop

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health Commission



1 practical challenges sponsored by the US ensus on aspects of dard parallel-placebo has ethical and pracid of subjects experi-

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Delivering transformative action in paediatric pain: a Lancet Child & Adolescent Health Commission

Christopher Eccleston, Emma Fisher, Richard F. Howard, Rebeccah Slater, Paula Forgeron, Tonya M. Palermo, Kathryn A. Birnie, Brian J. Anderson, Christine T Chambers, Geert Crombez, Gustaf Ljungman, Isabel Jordan, Zachary Jordan, Caltriona Roberts, Nell Schechter, Christine B Sieberg, Dick Tibboel, Suellen M Walker, Dominic Wilkinson, Chantal Wood

#### Clinical studies difficult and Sheiner proposed alternative approach

Clin Pharm Ther 1991

## The intellectual health of clinical drug evaluation

Lewis B. Sheiner, MD San Francisco, Calif.

"We have to trust the scientific judgement of the scientists . . . Statistics should be their handmaiden, not their jailer."

---D. Salsburg<sup>1</sup>

Let me introduce my topic by presenting three symptomatic examples of an intellectual illness from which I believe clinical research in general, and drug trials in particular, is suffering.

1. An irrelevant analysis. Fig. 1 is redrawn from a recent article in our Society's journal, CLINICAL PHAR-MACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS.<sup>2</sup> The error bars are drawn on only one point on each curve, but these are typical of the rest of the points.

The figure shows a characteristic time course of drug action, independent of dose, and a clear progression of pain relief as the dose of bromfenac increases. Rather than stressing this compatibility with expectation and rather than deriving a dose-response curve from which the (time course of) response to any dose could be predicted, why do the authors confine themselves to pairwise comparisons of the mean (over time) response between doses and deem it relevant to tell us, for example, that "No significant distinction was achieved between the 10 and 25 mg bromfenac doses"?<sup>2</sup>

2. A great waste. It seems that Smith Kline & French Laboratories (Philadelphia, Pa.) studied about

surely many tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars. Although proving unequivocally that the drug was effective, all those studies apparently did not reveal the minimum effective dose. This is not just an isolated instance. Temple<sup>3</sup> has pointed out that for many drugs the dose approved initially is considerably greater than that ultimately found to be adequate. This has been true, for example, for many  $\beta$ -blockers and more recently for zidovudine.

3. An excessive conservatism. Imagine a doubleblind crossover placebo-controlled study of a new drug for the prophylaxis of angina. Fig. 2 shows both the placebo and active drug data on one hypothetical patient. Here the intended dose of the new drug was one per day, and if the patient had taken the new drug as intended, there would be no reason to think it was superior to placebo on the basis of the similar frequency of anginal attacks on both treatments.

But what if a medication monitor had been used,<sup>4</sup> and the pattern of dosage was the one listed as *Actual* in Fig. 2? It seems the patient did not take any drug at all for the first 2 days and had anginal attacks on days 2 and 3. He then took the drug for 3 days without angina, stopped taking the drug, and had an attack the next day. The same thing happened again after 1 week of full compliance without angina. Surely, if there were multiple records like this one and the placebo records did not show similar natterns, we would be

# An approach around these difficulties

What do anaesthesiologists do?

## **Clinical Pharmacology**

**Pharmacokinetics** 

#### **Pharmacodynamics**



Holford 2009

#### Example: What dose propofol in infants



PKPD parameters incorporated into pump

#### ANAESTHESIA IS NOT...

#### the half-asleep watching the half-wake being half-murdered by the half-witted Malcolm Fisher





#### Emax Model Upside Down



 $Effect = E0 + \frac{E_{MAX} \times Ce^{N}}{(C_{50}^{N} + Ce^{N})}$ 

## **Target Concentration (PD)**



Target Effect BIS=50 Target concentration 3 mg/L

Fuentes Pediatric Anesth 2018

#### **Propofol Clearance Variability (PK)**

	Estimate	95%CI	Sh %	PPV (%)
V1 (L/70 kg)	18.5	5.2, 23.8	8.5	41.1
V2 (L/70kg)	41.1	29.2, 58.1	9.7	23.3
V3 (L/70 kg)	230	178, 390	14.5	50.3
CL (L/min/70 kg)	1.93	1.74, 2.19	2.9	40.7
Q2 (L/min/70kg)	3.82	3.24, 7.64	11.1	47.4
Q3 (L/min/70 kg)	0.837	1.09, 1.65	6.2	69.6
ТМ50	42.6		-	-
Hill	5.88			-
Additive residual Error (µg.mL <sup>-1</sup> )	0.012	0.0002, 0.0184		η <sub>RUV</sub> 0.56
Proportional Residual Error (%)	16.9	12.5, 28.3		

$$MF = \frac{PMA^{Hill}}{TM_{50}^{Hill} + PMA^{Hill}}$$

$$CL_{GRP} = CL_{STD} \cdot \left(\frac{WT}{WT_{STD}}\right)^{3/4} \cdot MF$$

Morse J. Pediatric Anesth 2019

1000

#### **Propofol Dosing Regimen**

Age	Induction dose (mg/kg)	0-15 min	15-30 min	30-60 min	60 – 120 min					
Target plasma concentration 3 µg.mL <sup>-1</sup>										
27-44 PMA weeks	2	9	7	6	5					
44-52 PMA weeks	2.5	11	10	9	8					
3-12 months	2.5	12	11	10	9					
1-3 years	2.5	13	12	11	10					

Morse J. Pediatr Anesth 2019

#### Simulation of 1000 individuals reveals unexplained variability





250

100

Time (minutes)

0

150

50

0

100

Time (minutes)

150

Anderson BJ. Pediatr Anesth 2019

## **Target Concentration Strategy**



#### Figure 6: Strategy to determine the correct dose of pharmacological treatment

C<sub>50</sub>=concentration at 50% of maximum response. CL=clearance. E<sub>MAX</sub>= maximum effect. V=volume of distribution.

#### Eccleston C The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health Commission 2021

#### Application of principles to Opioids: Example, Diamorphine (Heroin) age < 2 years

- Use restricted to a few countries
- Paediatric dose acute and palliative care unknown
- Renewed interest in the drug, clinical trials advocated
- Metabolism complex, never described in children (PK)
  - Maturation
  - Size
  - Physiological functions (renal system clears some metabolites)
- Effect attributed to metabolite, morphine (PD)
  - Other metabolites also have effect
  - No concentration-response relationship for morphine
  - Drug interactions
  - Pharmacogenomics

#### **Diamorphine Metabolism**



### **Diamorphine Pharmacokinetics**

- Adult rate constants known
- Pediatric morphine PK described
- Formulation bioavailability assumed
- PK maturation models known (premature neonate to adult)
  - Premature neonatal data (Barrett 1991-6, ventilation)
- Renal function maturation known
- Size factors assumed (allometry)
- PBPK modelling supportive

#### **Diamorphine Metabolism**



## **Diamorphine Pharmacodynamics**

- Link parameters known (T<sub>1/2</sub>keo)
- No Concentration-response – unlike NSAIDs, tramadol, acetaminophen
- Maturation receptors poorly defined
- Metabolite interactions (6-MAM, M6G)



Hannam JA, Pediatr Anesth 2018 Anderson BJ. Pediatr Anesth 2019

#### BUT

Target concentration defined

morphine 10 mcg/L

respiratory concentration-response same neonates-adults

## **Target Concentration Strategy**



#### Figure 6: Strategy to determine the correct dose of pharmacological treatment

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## **Population Modelling**

**Quantify the exposure-response relationship** 

**Provide clarity and insight** 

Enable extrapolation beyond the observed data

Provide scientific rationale to dose selection

A knowledge management tool to capture and integrate pooled data from studies

Drive decision making during drug development

Hypothesis generating – the learning phase of drug development

Give a mechanistic understanding of the drug effect - theory enrichment

Morse J. Curr Opin Anaesthesiology 2019



MARCH 1997

#### COMMENTARY

# Learning versus confirming in clinical drug development

Lewis B. Sheiner, MD San Francisco, Calif.

Drug Interactions: surface responses



Agonist

Agonist

Agonist

E

F



## **Opioid Drug Interactions**

- Opioid drug interactions well described with anaesthesia agents
  - e.g., propofol-remifentanil
- Simple analgesic interactions in older children described
  - e.g., Hannam JA, Anderson BJ, Potts A.
    Acetaminophen, ibuprofen and tramadol analgesic interactions after adenotonsillectomy. Pediatr Anesth 2018; 28: 841-851



#### FIGURE 1 GENETICS OF CYP 2D6 METABOLIZING EFFECTS ON NORTRIPTYLINE



CYP=cytochrome P450; MR=metabolic ratio of parent debrisoquine + metabolic OHdebrisoquine.

Preskorn SH, Flockhart D. Primary Psychiatry. Vol 16, No 12. 2009.

#### Impact of CYP2D6 on Tramadol Clearance



Holford SD et al. Parent-metabolite pharmacokinetic models for tramadol – tests of assumptions and predictions. J Pharm Clin Tox 2014;2(1):1023-34

#### **Contributors to analgesic variability**



Source: Pharmacogenomics © 2012 Future Medicine Ltd

# The intellectual health of clinical drug evaluation

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