Approaches to Comparability

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Process Comparability Key to Managing Process Changes





Process Characterisation is the Foundation





Equivalence or Expectation – Which Approach?

Equivalence

- Changes that cannot be characterized
- Limited in-process Data
- Early Tech Transfer (Clinical to Commercial)
- Runs Performed Under Controlled Conditions
- Limited manufacturing experience
- Typically for CQAs

Expectation

- Change Supported by Characterization Data at Scale
- Increased in-process Data
- Tech Transfer after Extensive
 Manufacturing Experience
- Run more Representative of Patient Data
- Utilize Historical Data from a Variety of Sources for Acceptance Criteria



Kite has Used Equivalence & Expectation Approaches

- Under both approaches, comparability included demonstrating a number of process parameters meeting the expected established ranges.
 - Individual measurements, rather than population means, were considered more suitable.
 - Tolerance interval approach was appropriate because the interest was in evaluation of individual lots rather than the average of several measurements.
 - The acceptance criteria for these parameters were derived from tolerance intervals calculated from full-scale runs.



Risk Assessment as Component of Comparability

- As part of process comparability, a risk assessment is performed to determine which quality attributes should be considered for comparability.
- Quality attributes are ranked for their criticality using a risk assessment approach that is based on 2 dimensions:
 - Severity: taking into account the risks associated with subject safety (eg, proper dosing) and product efficacy
 - Likelihood: defined as the probability of an adverse event (AE) that impacts safety and efficacy due to a quality attribute being out of control.
 - A risk priority number (RPN), which indicates the relative criticality of an attribute, is calculated by:

RPN = Severity X Likelihood Scores*



Stability as a Component of Comparability

- Long-term stability studies have shown that product is stable over a long period of time once frozen and stored at appropriate temperature.
- Risk assessment should be performed to evaluate whether the change may have an impact on stability
 - A short-term stability study can address any potential impact of the change on product stability (excluding changes to formulation or cryopreservation step).

A long-term stability study may not be required for comparability purposes for CAR-T products



Concurrent Validation and Application to Comparability

- EU GMP Guidance for ATMPs allows for concurrent process validation
- 1. Can comparability be executed with surrogate material at scale as part of process characterization, followed by concurrent validation using patient material?
- 2. Can patient product be released after meeting protocol acceptance criteria prior to filing the data package with regulators?
- Concurrent validation approaches
 - 10.43. Due to the limited availability of the starting materials and/or where there is a strong benefit-risk ratio for the patient, a concurrent validation may be acceptable. The decision to carry out concurrent validation should be justified and a protocol should be defined. Regular reviews of data from the manufacture of batches should be subsequently used to confirm that the manufacturing process is able to ensure that the specifications in the marketing authorization are complied with.
 - 10.44. Where a concurrent validation approach has been adopted, there should be sufficient data to support the conclusion that the batch meets the defined criteria. The results and conclusion should be formally documented and available to the QP prior to the certification of the batch.

