PRGLAC meeting: Lessons Learned from Pediatric Research

Implementation of NICHD'S Pediatric Drug Development Program Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (BPCA) February 26, 2018



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Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act

- The Need: 60-70% of drugs used in children NOT labeled for dosing, safety, effectiveness, or indication (percentages ^^^ in neonates)
- <u>One</u> (of many needed) Answer: Legislation
- Purpose: to implement a <u>pediatric drug development</u> <u>program</u> improve <u>pediatric labeling</u> of on-patent and off-patent drugs; to improve treatment in various therapeutic areas

BPCA Overview

BPCA Legislation

FDA (*On-patent)

NIH (*off-patent)

Pharmaceutical Companies' Drug Studies

Pediatrics Division Oversight Prioritization Clinical Trials Training

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Contemporary Drug Development Paradigm

- Opportunity for profit population to be treated
- Frequency, severity, chronicity of disease
- Pathophysiology of disease
- Pre-clinical testing for efficacy, safety, pk/pd
- *Clinical testing for efficacy and pk/pd
- FDA Approval

Where does NIH fit?

Aggressive marketing and distribution

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"Pediatric" Drug Development...twists and turns*

Many issues hamper the testing of drugs in children. These include:

- The lack of incentives
- Ethical issues involving parental permission and the child's assent;
- Need for new technology to provide means to monitor patients and test very small amounts of blood;
- The unforeseeable nature of some clinical responses in immature individuals; leading to the possibility of unanticipated adverse reactions;
- The threat of effects on growth, development or health long after the drug's administration;
- Difficulty in predicting dose-response or concentration-response relationships by extrapolation from data obtained in adults;
- Need for a suitable infrastructure for the conduct of pediatric pharmacology research



NIH BPCA RECAP

PRIORITIZATION

Identify drugs needing further study

CLINICAL STUDY/LABELCHANGE

- Performing those prioritized studies
- Submitting to FDA

How to prioritize...

Over the years, OPPB has collaborated with pediatric experts to determine the greatest needs in pediatric pharmacology research. As it is not possible to pursue all such needs, NICHD has taken the following steps to define a priority setting process:





Prioritization Complexities

- Frequency of medication use in children
- Drug availability/cost
- Therapeutic index (including side effect profile)
- Use in life-threatening conditions
- Physicians preferences
- Patient factors
- Indications for use



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Clinical Studies Lessons learned 24 years later...

In Implementing Pediatric Drug Trials:

Need for epidemiology data for the drug and the condition
 Are people using this drug? What is the SOC (Indication/Approach)

Need for data on the natural history of the disease and/or on the treatment effect
 How to determine outcome measures of disease and endpoints for treatment effects

Need for Pharmacokinetic and Statistical expertise up front (in protocol design)

Practicalities of Conducting Pediatric trials, especially RCTs

- Sample size/Recruitment
- Expertise (PI and sites)/Training
- Ethical concerns / Informed consent



Continuing Lessons

- Extrapolation
 Key to feasibility in pediatric trials
- Collaboration



Current BPCA Clinical Program* Infrastructure

T32 Training		Pediatric Trials Network	
• NICHD	U54 Centers Program	 Management Clinical Pharmacology Pharmacometrics Safety and Ethics Devices 	Data Coordinating Center
• NIGMS	 CNMC University of Indiana SUNY Downstate UCSD Indiana University 		 Regulatory Submissions Statistical Support Site monitoring/auditing



Progress

- Extensive range of therapeutics categories Prioritized thus far:
 - ✓ >150 Drugs Listed to date
 - ✓ ~60 Drug Moieties studied to date
 - >20 Studies submitted for Label Change to date

"Pediatrics does not deal with miniature men and women, with reduced doses and the same class of diseases in smaller bodies, but....it has its own independent range and horizon..."

Dr. Abraham Jacobi, 1889



Thank you

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 - Dr. George Giacoia
 - [Dr. Anne Zajicek]