### **ORAL PRESENTATION**



**Open Access** 

# Bridging the gap: a review of dose-investigation studies in paediatric investigation plans

Lisa Hampson<sup>1\*</sup>, Martin Posch<sup>2</sup>, Julia Saperia<sup>3</sup>, Anne Whitehead<sup>1</sup>

*From* 2nd Clinical Trials Methodology Conference: Methodology Matters Edinburgh, UK. 18-19 November 2013

Recent regulatory changes place greater emphasis on ensuring that new medicinal products are appropriately licensed for use in children. The EU Paediatric Regulation stipulates that development in this group should follow a prospectively agreed paediatric investigation plan (PIP) outlining all of the studies to be conducted. For any medicine, finding the right dose is crucial if its benefits are to be properly evaluated. However, dosefinding in children may be challenging due to the variability of drug pharmacokinetics across age-groups and the limited sample sizes available. In such cases, uncertainty about likely drug effects in children may be reduced by extrapolating from existing data in relevant populations.

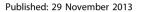
This review focuses on current strategies adopted in PIPs to support paediatric dose-recommendations. Data were extracted from 73 PIP opinions recently adopted by the Paediatric Committee of the European Medicines Agency. These PIP opinions represented a total of 79 development programs and comprised a total of 97 dose-investigation studies. This presentation discusses the key findings of this review. We highlight common assumptions made in extrapolations and find that few steps are often taken to validate needed assumptions. Sample sizes used to support dose-investigations are found to be highly variable across programs, with low numbers recruited from the very youngest age-groups.

#### Authors' details

<sup>1</sup>Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK. <sup>2</sup>Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. <sup>3</sup>Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, London, UK.

<sup>1</sup>Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



#### doi:10.1186/1745-6215-14-S1-O42

**Cite this article as:** Hampson *et al.*: **Bridging the gap: a review of doseinvestigation studies in paediatric investigation plans.** *Trials* 2013 14 (Suppl 1):O42.

## Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

) BioMed Central

Submit your manuscript at www.biomedcentral.com/submit



© 2013 Hampson et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.