Atypical pharmacokinetic profiles observed with dasatinib reference listed drug product in bioequivalence studies

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PURPOSE
Dasatinib is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that is primarily indicated for the treatment of patients diagnosed with a form of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) in chronic phase. While there are several strengths of dasatinib available for prescription use, the recommended therapeutic dose for chronic phase CML is 100 mg once per day and for accelerated phase CML is 140 mg per day, which is also the highest strength available on the USA and EU markets.

The FDA draft guidance on Dasatinib for bioequivalence studies recommends 1 fasted, and 1 fed crossover study with the dosage of a 100 mg tablet administered via oral route in normal healthy volunteers (NHV). The EMA dasatinib product specific bioequivalence guidance recommends only a fasted single dose crossover study in NHV following a 140 mg dose, the highest strength available on the EU market.

OBJECTIVE(S)
It was noted that the dasatinib reference listed drug (RLD) demonstrated very high ISCV within in-house clinical studies, as well as several instances of anomalous absorption and systemic exposure

 Objective of this poster is to discuss anomalous exposure profiles seen in small and inconsistent proportion of the panel within in-house dasatinib clinical studies

METHOD(S)
- 6 pivotal studies
  - 1 reference replicate study = 100 mg
  - 2 reference replicate studies = 140 mg
  - 3 single dose two-way cross-over studies = 140 mg
- Fasted conditions
- 100 mg or 140 mg tablet strength
- Normal healthy volunteers (NHV)
- 1 week washout
- No concomitant consumption of CYP3A4 inducers/inhibitors that would interfere with metabolism of dasatinib
- Plasma concentration data resulting from dose administration of only RLD to NHV from all in-house studies pooled together
- Pooled data set (140 mg) and actual data set (100 mg) utilized in an in-depth analysis to further investigate trends and anomalous profiles observed following dasatinib RLD administration in BE studies

RESULT(S)
Pooled systemic exposure data of the four 2-way cross over studies following a 1 × 140 mg single dose of dasatinib, demonstrated approximately 5.22% of subjects had anomalously low plasma concentration and AUC values, relative to the population mean (i.e. less than 10% of the population mean).

Intra Subject fold error between AUC values in both RLD dosing arms in a 140 mg reference replicate dasatinib study that met BE criteria

For EU submission studies, EU regulation allows to exclude data from subjects demonstrating AUC values less than 5% of the mean AUC values, calculated upon exclusion of their respective individual data. Approximately 3.5% - 7.5% of subject data were excluded from the PK stats analysis in each study, this summed to a 4.6% rate of data exclusion from the pooled data set.

Overall very high intra subject variability was observed on AUC, 40-60%, and on Cmax, 70-80%.

CONCLUSION(S)
Study conclusion
- Overall the RLD product has consistently demonstrated erratic pharmacokinetic exposure profiles in 3.5% - 7.5% in every in-house study, as well as very high ISCV. This could very likely be due to:
  - Exceptol solubility factors associated with the RLD formulation
  - pH-dependent solubility: Dasatinib is a BCS Class II. For Class II drugs inadequate and pH dependent dissolution contributes to the variability in absorption.
  - Fluctuating gastric pH levels that may affect dasatinib absorption
- For EU studies approximately 4.5% of subject data was excluded due to anomalous profile regulations
- FDA outlier test carries a far more stringent criteria for PK data exclusion as compared to the EMA 5% rule; As a result, far fewer individual subject data sets would qualify for data exclusion based on the results of a studentized residuals outlier test.
- There were no recognizable trends associated with dosage strength or population demographics (i.e. race, age, weight...)

Future considerations
- Evaluate gastric pH influence on dasatinib absorption after an overnight fast, before dosing
- I.e. using Smart Pill technology
- Evaluate reference listed drug for variability, pH dependant solubility, and consistency of absorption
- Incorporate additional buffer into sample size consideration to compensate for expected portion of anomalous PK results