

Hi

clinical pharmacology program

Today we're going to be doing a follow-up activity to Joe Rogaborus [spelled phonetically]

PKPD modeling and we'll be performing an activity to demonstrate how to build a PKPD

model and explore the different ways that these models can be used for clinical drug

development and to gain a better understanding of the pharmacology of whatever drug you're

studying

So a PKPD model is essentially an exposure-response model describing the relation of the drug

in terms of how much drug molecules are circulating through your body and how that's tied to whatever

response that you're looking at

So all drugs have a desired effect on target that they're designed to hit and also some

side effects off-target effects

And while the desired effects are studied obviously we want to also study the off-target

effects because if the drug is too toxic then patients can't tolerate it and then

they go off-study and they don't get the benefit of the drug

So during clinical drug development phases one, two, and three a toxicity profile is

generally developed and identified and also response models

So we can gain a better understanding of exposure-response relationships with these

drugs throughout the clinical development and then we can use that data to build said

models

The drug in question that we'll be discussing today is called beleodaq; the generic name

is belinostat

It is a second-generation histone deacetylase inhibitor

It is because it is a second generation it has all the HDAC inhibitors in this

generation have a hydroxamate moiety on the end of their molecule and that makes

it a good handle so to speak on the drug metabolism for glucuronidation and well
cover that shortly here

It was FDA approved in 2000 for peripheral T cell lymphoma relapse to refractory at a
dose of 1000 milligrams per meter squared as a 30 minute IV infusion

Its pharmacokinetic profile is best described by a rapid distribution into the periphery
and rapid elimination with a short half life ranging from 0.5 to three and a half hours
in humans in plasma

And like other drugs in its class hydroxamate histone deacetylase inhibitors it is predominately
glucuronidated by the polymorphic UGT1A1

And there are two particular sites where the gene UGT1A1 is altered

One is the 28 repeat genotype where there's an extra region in the promoter that reduces
its expression hence reduces its activity

And patients with the 28 repeat or 26 repeat have a slower metabolism and slower clearance

So they have overexposure of drug

And then same with UGT1A1 different sites same effect

So we built a PKPD model that describes the genotype effects along with every other
kind of population characteristic that we included

And this will also tie into Dr Beezus [spelled phonetically] population PK lecture where
he described how to build a population PK model which is what this is

And we noticed here that patients that were carriers of the 28 repeat and/or 26 repeat had a slower
rate of metabolism

And during this infusion which was a 30 minute infusion this is a different study and
a different disease setting so in this case the study was trying to get the drug approved
in a different disease setting to add on to the FDA approval of peripheral T cell lymphoma

And so because it has a short half life this study had a prolonged 30 minute infusion
to prolong the drug's effect

And during the drug infusion the black line here represents the steady state of drugs exposure for impaired metabolizers

And as you can see it's higher than people with regular or extensive metabolism
So this sort of proves our hypothesis that patients with these genotypes do have a slower metabolism and a higher exposure

And the model did simulate a slower clearance for the impaired metabolizers
In the lower left figure there the red box depicts a clearance for the impaired metabolizers and it has a slower clearance rate than extensive metabolizers

And so in order to not overdose impaired metabolizers we simulate a dose reduction
that when you do the dose reduction in impaired metabolizers you get a more comparable exposure

So you are helping those patients not have too much toxicity

So the purpose of this activity is to go through the steps to build a PKPD model
So what we were going to do first is now that we've described the PK model we were going to go through the process of putting that model together in terms of text so that we can understand how that PK model is built

So the pharmacokinetics is essentially just describing the kinetics of the drug over time
So in order to do that we use differential equations and we're describing the movement of the drug from the central compartment in the plasma to the periphery and then back into the central compartment where it can be metabolized and cleared

So the top two lines there are the differential equations of describing the drug movement in the first or second compartment as well as a variety of other lines of code that we will get to

So this overall line of code here describes everything that we would need for the Pop PK model

The first section highlighted in red here is the structural model

So this is where you can code a two-compartment model structure and also describing the rates

into and out of each compartment

We have four parameters that the model is estimating; the volume of each compartment

one and two the clearance rates into and out of between the compartments and

then the overall systemic clearance rate out of the body

And so we have a variety of ways that we can do that

So the type of model this is is a mixed effect population model

So the mixed effects is a mix of the fixed and random effects

And one other aspect to a structural model here is the unexplained error

So we try to explain as much error in the model as possible and the unexplained portion

of error we can still describe by a proportional model which is highlighted here in yellow

The fixed effects is represented by the population average of that parameter

So for instance let's say one of these parameters is body weight for an easy example

So if everyone in the world a population weighed themselves you'd have a population

average

Let's call it 0 kilograms

Some people weigh more some people weigh less

Trying to understand the reasons why certain individuals weigh more or weigh less you

would have a population average weight and then other covariates to explain why said

individual might weigh more or less than the population average

Are they taller?

Are they older?

Are they younger?

What is their diet?

Et cetera

So in the parameter equation to calculate each individual's parameter estimate you

have a population average for that parameter and then other covariates or variables that

help describe why that patient might have a slightly different value for that parameter
than the population average

So again the fixed effects are just the population average

Then we have the random effects which are those portions of the equation for each parameter
that help describe why one patient has a different value for that parameter than other patients

And as we all know not everyone reacts to the drug the same and there's a variety of
reasons why that is

It could be organ function age sex gender race a variety of things

So in this study we noticed that in addition to the base level between subject variability
represented by the EDA [spelled phonetically] values we have a bunch of covariates

And we built a covariate model on top of our base structural model and in this particular
drug in this particular study with the study data that we had available such as albumin
and renal function and obviously the UGT A genotype status those were the variables
that significantly impacted the clearance

And the volume of the central compartment body weight did explain some of the variability
on that parameter

So that is the population PK aspect of this PKPD model

So now we want to talk about the PD aspect of this PKPD model

And first we're going to do two parts to the PKOD analysis

First we're going to do the on-target desired effects which the HDAC inhibitors inhibit
histone deacetylases

And in histones there is a regulated function of relaxation and tightening of chromosomes
around histones the DNA around histones

So and that's regulated by histone acetyltransferases and histone deacetylases

And so the histone acetylase inhibitors inhibit the deacetylation

So knowing the mechanism of the drug is important to develop this PKPD model

So with that said we know that belinostat and other like drugs histone deacetylase

inhibitors inhibit deacetylase activity at certain histones on certain lysines

So what we ultimately can measure as an indirect marker of drug effect is global lysine acetylation

It's an easy validated way to assess the reduction of the activity of the enzyme without

actually measuring the enzyme's activity directly

So we indirectly measure just global lysine acetylation

And as the drug works and inhibits deacetylation, acetylation levels go up

And that's how we can mark drug effect

So building on top of our PK model we're adding a PD response model where knowing

that our measured response is global lysine acetylation we have a regulation of the acetylation

by acetylation and deacetylation in terms of the model it's modeled by

A K_{in} and a K_{out} rate respectively

The drug effect for belinostat is on the deacetylation aspect or the K_{out} because belinostat inhibits

deacetylation enzymes

So and we can mark we can track our response over time with the differential equation

listed here

And because it's a reversible mechanism the effect the inhibitory effect $IMAX$

and IC_{50} are tied into the drug concentration

So when the drug concentration is zero the effect will be zero

And that captures the reversible aspect of the mechanism

So with the diagram of the model depicted here let's next go through how to actually

build that model in an analysis software

So we need the differential equations textually to build that model

The PK model code here is the same as we just discussed in red so we don't need to cover

that again

But the PD aspect of the model here is in blue

And as we can see if we want to track the change in response over time or the change in effect over time so we have the four parameters here that we need to estimate for the model

The PD model is the K_{in} and the K_{out} rate the $IMAX$ and the IC_{50}

So the time component of this effect model is tied indirectly to the drug concentration which in itself is tracked by time

Drug concentration changes over time as a drug is eliminated and the drug concentration magnitude will change with dose

So those all can be tied into the effect

So after we can implement this code into our whatever software were using and a side note: This model code here is in the Phoenix modeling language but it can easily be deciphered into NONMEM Fortran or MATLAB or any other comparable PK modeling software

The essence is the same; you're having a differential equation to describe the drug effect or drug concentration over time and the nature of that differential equation doesn't change

Some syntax might change but the essence of the code depicted here will apply almost in every software

So once we implement that code into our software and implement the data set that has all the data variables that we need we can simulate what a exposure response PKPD relationship would look like

And in this diagram here the blue lines are represented representing the drug concentration for this study which was a hour infusion

So as drug levels increase up to a steady state during the infusion you can also see a correlated increase in the global acetylation fold change indicated by the red line

And on the right axis the right Y axis there is the global lysine fold change acetylation

And as the drug infusion is stopped at hours and the drug is quickly cleared due to the quick half-life of the belinostat the global acetylation levels quickly fall

back to onefold which is baseline

So this model can adequately capture the reversible mechanism between belinostat drug concentrations and the histone deacetylase inhibition

So while that was the relationship with the desired effect we also have to understand the off-target undesirable adverse effects

And in this case many of the drugs in this class including panobinostat romidepsin and belinostat all have links to thrombocytopenia which is a decrease in platelets

The mechanism of this drug effect on platelets is a delayed maturation of the platelet precursor which is a megakaryocyte and if the drug can delay the maturation of the precursor into the mature thrombocyte then you're eventually going to deplete your thrombocyte your mature thrombocyte count over time especially with repeated cycles of drug and it's going to take your body longer to recuperate and replenish your mature thrombocyte levels

So with repeated dosing of panobinostat romidepsin and belinostat eventually patients have grade two or grade three or worse thrombocytopenia which can be resolved with platelet infusions but it's still a it can be a dose-limiting toxicity for a time which will require the patient to dose-reduce or delay a dose but then they're just not getting the desired effect that they need

So we need to understand this relationship a little bit better

It's been published for panobinostat and several other drugs in this class but never for belinostat

And that is something that was recently published by our group

So as I said this effect on this drug class has been published before

So what we can do is take what's been published into literature in terms of a PD response model for megakaryocyte maturation and drug effect on it and apply that to our study here

So we have our same PK two-compartment model here where the drug concentration is now linked to a drug effect in the yellow box there where it delays the maturation of the megakaryocytes

And so this is a semimechanistic representation of a drug effect on thrombocytes
And the code for this the PK aspect again is the same in red and the PD aspect here
is in blue

And we'll go through each section of code one by one describing this figure here

So there are several aspects to this figure that the code will represent

So the first section is understanding the proliferating compartment

And we have a differential equation here to measure the amount of proliferator cells or megakaryocytes based on the rate going to make them and the rate going to mature them

And that's where the drug effect is

And our drug effect which is described by the caption there E_{drug} is actually a
linear effect on the effect with concentration

So we have a slope parameter that we're measuring that is tied to the drug concentration

So the drug concentration is linearly related to the drug effect

And that relationship is described by the slope parameter

The next section is the maturation section where the megakaryocytes are sequentially
matured in these transit compartments and these transit compartments can be described
with differential equations as depicted here

And then the last section here is the circulating compartment of mature thrombocytes or mature
platelets which is what we are measuring clinically

We're measuring when we take samples from patients we're measuring their circulating
platelet count

And this is where we can use this observed data to build our model around and to and
to estimate each of the parameters that we need to estimate in this model code

And so what we can do is build a model estimate our parameters it gives us the predicted
number of circulating platelets and we can compare that to our observed or measured amount
of platelets and see how far off we are

And that will help us to optimize our parameter estimates and come up with the best model

And we've done that and with our optimal model with our optimal parameter estimates which are listed here below in the fixed effects there then we can simulate a PKPD response in terms of platelets

So the left Y axis is again depicting the drug concentrations during a hour infusion And you see as you increase dose from 0 in green to 100 mgs per meter squared in red obviously your steady state concentration increases accordingly and correspondingly so does the delayed rebound effect of the platelets

So on the lowest dose there in green on the right Y axis is a circulating platelet count measure

And as you can see the green line kind of rebounds the fastest which makes sense; you have the lowest concentration of drug

And the highest concentration of drug the highest dose of drug you actually rebound the slowest and you don't actually fully recover by the end of the day cycle

So by the start of the next cycle on day you aren't really at the highest dose level at least in this simulation

You're not fully rebounded yet

So any subsequent doses your NADR [spelled phonetically] is just going to go lower and lower and eventually that dose is going to cause in most people a at least grade two thrombocyte count thrombocytopenia event

So what this model is useful for is if you know someone is a UGT variant and they're going to clear the drug slower even with the same dose as everybody else they may have a higher exposure

And we can correlate their higher exposure with how slowly they're going to rebound in their platelet count

So you can try to predict when and how severe their thrombocytopenia event will occur and

you can try to back down their dose early enough to avoid this situation

And that reduction in dose can be optimized by simulations

Personalized

So that is all I have

I hope this activity was helpful for you and thank you for your time