

Pharmacometrics Review

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Brand Name	Effient®
Generic Name	Prasugrel
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Submission Type	Original NDA (NME)
Formulation	Tablet
Proposed indication	Antithrombotic
Proposed Dosage and Administration	60 mg Loading Dose; 10 mg QD Maintenance

Executive Summary

In the present submission, the following key questions were addressed by the reviewer:

What are the characteristics of the exposure-response relationships (dose-response, concentration-response) for efficacy?

Prasugrel showed a concentration dependent inhibition of the platelet aggregation. The exposures achieved with the proposed loading dose of prasugrel result in maximum inhibition of the platelet aggregation. However, the relationship between the inhibition of platelet aggregation and the clinical outcome (Composite of Cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction and non-fatal stroke) is not clearly understood. Further, in a double blind, randomized dose-ranging trial in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention, no consistent relationship between the dose of prasugrel and the endpoint (major adverse cardiovascular event [MACE] at 30-day visit) was observed. However, it should be noted that this study was not designed to characterize dose-response and the sample size was small (N=200 for 40/7.5 and 60/10 groups and N=251 for 60/15 group).

What are the characteristics of the exposure-response relationships (dose-response, concentration-response) for safety?

A trend for increased bleeding-related adverse events with increase in exposure of the active metabolite of prasugrel was observed in the early clinical pharmacology studies. Similar trends were observed with increased bleeding with increased doses in patients with stable atherosclerosis. However, it should be noted that these events were predominantly driven by minimal bleeding.

Is the dose and dosing regimen selected by the sponsor consistent with the known relationship between dose-concentration-response, and is there any unresolved dosing or administration issues?

Dose selection for the pivotal trial was based primarily on the effect of prasugrel on the inhibition of platelet aggregation (IPA) and bleeding compared to clopidogrel in subjects with stable atherosclerosis.

The 60-mg prasugrel LD consistently achieved the highest level of platelet inhibition and was chosen as the Loading Dose to be studied in the pivotal trial. Both the 10- and 15-mg prasugrel MDs achieved consistent and significantly greater IPA than the 75-mg clopidogrel MD. However, the 15-mg MD of prasugrel was associated with higher bleeding adverse events (AEs) hence 10-mg prasugrel MD was selected. This effect of increased trend for bleeding with 15-mg prasugrel MD compared to 10-mg prasugrel MD was also observed in Study TAAH. Hence, a 10-mg once-daily maintenance dose (MD) was selected to be studied in the registration trial TAAL.

Since the relationship between the inhibition of platelet aggregation and the cardiovascular risk is not clearly understood, the effectiveness of lower dosing regimen is unknown.

Should the maintenance dose be reduced to 5 mg QD in patients with body weight below 60 Kg?

Dose adjustment to 5 mg QD in patients with bodyweight below 60 kg is acceptable. Trends of increased bleeding related adverse events were associated with increased exposures of R-138727. Exposure of R-138727 increased with decreasing body weight and the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) Major bleeding risk was 2 fold higher in patients with body weight less than 60 Kg. Efficacy was similar across the body weight groups. Reducing the maintenance dose of prasugrel to 5 mg shifts more than 50% of patients with body weight less than 60 Kg to lower quartiles of exposure seen with 10 mg in patients with body weight greater than 60 kg.

Should the maintenance dose be reduced to 5 mg QD in patients with age ≥ 75 years?

No. Age ≥ 75 y was an independent predictor for increased risk of primary composite efficacy endpoint (CVD/ Non-fatal MI/Non-fatal Stroke) and TIMI Major bleeding. The efficacy of prasugrel was better (numerically) than clopidogrel with a similar risk for bleeding in patients age > 75 years. Further, after adjusting for bodyweight, the exposure of active metabolite of prasugrel did not increase with age. Hence dose reduction in elderly patients is not justified.

What is the impact of early loading dose (6 hours prior to the start of PCI) on the incidence of efficacy events?

Lowest incidence of the primary efficacy endpoint was seen when the loading dose was administered within 30 minutes of the start of Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI). The increased incidence of the primary efficacy endpoint when the loading dose was administered at least 6 hrs prior to the start of PCI was confounded with Prior Coronary Bypass Graft Surgery. The effect of timing of loading dose on the efficacy was seen independently for prasugrel and clopidogrel, suggesting that pre-treatment 6 hrs before the start of PCI may not be necessary.

Recommendations:

- 1) The proposed dose adjustment of prasugrel maintenance dose to 5 mg QD for patients with body weight less than 60 Kg is acceptable.
- 2) The proposed dose adjustment of prasugrel maintenance dose in patients with age ≥ 75 y is not acceptable.
- 3) Pre-treatment of at least 6 hrs for prasugrel or clopidogrel is not necessary to achieve maximum effectiveness. The loading dose should be administered at least within 30 minutes of the start of PCI.

Table of Contents

Pharmacometrics Review	263
Executive Summary	264
Recommendations:	265
Table of Contents	266
List of Tables	267
List of Figures	267
Introduction	269
Reviewer's Analysis	270
Question Based Review	270
1) What are the characteristics of the exposure-response relationships (dose-response, concentration-response) for efficacy?	271
2) What are the characteristics of the exposure-response relationships (dose-response, concentration-response) for safety?	272
3) Is the dose and dosing regimen selected by the sponsor consistent with the known relationship between dose-concentration-response, and is there any unresolved dosing or administration issues?	273
4) Should the maintenance dose be reduced to 5 mg QD in patients with body weight below 60 Kg?	274
Relationship between body weight and efficacy	274
Relationship between body weight and TIMI major bleeding	275
Relationship between exposure and bleeding	275
Relationship between body weight and exposure	276
5) Should the maintenance dose be reduced to 5 mg QD in patients with age ≥ 75 years?	277
Relationship between age and efficacy	277
Relationship between age and TIMI major bleeding	278
6) What is the impact of early loading dose (6 hours prior to the start of PCI) on the incidence of efficacy events?	279
Sponsor's Analysis	284
Study TAAD	284
Objectives	284
Data	284
Methods	285
Results	287
Study TABR	289
Objectives	289
Data	289
Methods	290
Results	290
Study TAAL	292
Objectives	292
Data	292
Methods	293
Results	294

Reviewer's Comments.....	297
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List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of subject demographics.....	284
Table 2: Patient specific factors evaluated as potential covariates	286
Table 3: Population pharmacokinetic parameters of the final population model	288
Table 4: Patient demographics for PK/PD model development (per sponsor report H7T-MC-TABR Population Pharmacokinetics Report; Table TABR.9.1).....	289
Table 5: Prasugrel Pharmacokinetics Parameter estimates in the final population pharmacokinetic mode.....	291
Table 6: Summary of baseline demographics in the pharmacokinetic subset of Study TAAL	292
Table 7: Final correlation analysis model.....	294
Table 8: Final population pharmacokinetic parameter estimates for Study TAAL.	296

List of Figures

Figure 1: The inhibition of the platelet aggregation is dependent on the concentration of the active metabolites of prasugrel and clopidogrel	271
Figure 2: No relationship between dose and major cardiovascular events.....	272
Figure 3: Increase in the active metabolite exposures trends to increase in number of bleeding adverse events (NBAE).	273
Figure 4: Prasugrel LD of 60 mg achieves highest IPA. Maintenance doses of 10 mg and 15 mg achieve significantly greater IPA compared to clopidogrel MD of 75 mg.	274
Figure 5: Risk for TIMI Major bleeding is higher in patients with body weight less than 60 Kg.	275
Figure 6: Clearance of R-138727 increases with increase in body weight (Left: Study TAAD; Right: Study TABR).	276
Figure 7: Decreased Exposures of R-138727 with increased body weight in Study TAAL.	276
Figure 8: Simulation (N=2000) of the proposed dose of 5 mg in patients with body weight < 60kg will result in exposures predominantly corresponding to lower two quartiles of those expected with 10 mg MD in patients with body weight >60 kg.	277
Figure 9: Risk for CVD/Non-fatal MI/ Non-fatal Stroke is high in patients above 75 years of age compared to patients below 75 years.	278
Figure 10: Risk for TIMI Major bleeding is high in patients above 75 years of age compared to patients below 75 years.	279
Figure 11: Maximum effectiveness is achieved when the loading dose is administered at the start or within 30 min of start of PCI.....	280
Figure 12: Pre-treatment with clopidogrel/prasugrel 6 hrs before the start of PCI results in decreased effectiveness compared to no pre-treatment	280

Figure 13: The effect of the timing of loading dose relative to the start of PCI is similar across prasugrel and clopidogrel	281
Figure 14: Cumulative event rate of the cardiovascular event is lower when the loading dose is administered at the start of PCI or within 30 minutes of the start of the PCI irrespective.	281
Figure 15: Cumulative event rate of the cardiovascular events across quartiles of difference in time of loading dose and start of PCI is similar between clopidogrel (left) and prasugrel (right).....	282
Figure 16: R-138727 structural model	285
Figure 17: Mechanistic PK/PD model for prasugrel	286
Figure 18: The correlation model performs reasonably well across different studies.	295
Figure 19: Goodness-of-fit for final prasugrel PK model for Study TAAL.	297

Introduction

EFFIENT® (prasugrel hydrochloride), an adenosine diphosphate (ADP) receptor antagonist of the thienopyridine class, is a potent inhibitor of platelet activation and aggregation mediated by the P2Y₁₂ ADP receptor. In the present submission, the sponsor is seeking the approval of prasugrel for the reduction of atherothrombotic events and the reduction of the stent thrombosis in acute coronary syndromes (ACS).

Prasugrel is an orally administered pro-drug requiring in vivo metabolism to form the active metabolite (R-138727). This conversion occurs through rapid hydrolysis by carboxylesterases and then by multiple cytochrome P450 enzymes. The efficacy of prasugrel as an anti-thrombotic therapy in the treatment of patients with ACS managed by Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) was supported by one large Phase 3 clinical study (TAAL). Study TAAL enrolled 13,608 subjects with ACS who were randomly assigned in a blinded fashion either to a 60-mg Loading Dose (LD) of prasugrel at the time of PCI, followed by a 10-mg daily Maintenance Dose (MD) of prasugrel, or to the approved clopidogrel 300-/75-mg LD/MD (all subjects concomitantly treated with aspirin). Subjects were treated (6 months minimum and 15 months maximum) for a median duration of 14.5 months. The primary objective of Study TAAL was to test the hypothesis that prasugrel co-administered with aspirin is superior to clopidogrel co-administered with aspirin in the treatment of subjects with ACS who are to undergo PCI, as measured by a reduction in the composite efficacy endpoint of CV death (CVD), nonfatal MI, or nonfatal stroke.

Three studies (TAAJ, TAAD, TABR) provide direct population PK/PD comparisons of prasugrel and clopidogrel in healthy subjects or subjects with stable atherosclerosis, whereas a population PK analysis of data from 1159 subjects in the Phase 3 Study TAAL characterizes the PK of prasugrel's active metabolite in the intended population of patients who are to undergo PCI for ACS management.

Reviewer's Analysis

Question Based Review

The relationship between efficacy endpoint/TIMI major bleeding and body weight/age were performed using the intent-to-treat (ITT) set, consisting of all randomized subjects except where otherwise specified in Study TAAL. The data set cecf.xpt was utilized to perform the analysis. Kaplan-Meier and Cox regression analysis were employed to explore the relationships. Age and body weight were tested either as continuous or categorical covariates. Multivariate analyses utilized Cox proportional hazard model with entry and exit criteria of $\alpha=0.05$ in a stepwise selection method. The following factors were included in the multivariate analyses: weight (<60 Kg, ≥ 60 kg), age (<75 years, ≥ 75 years) and sex. The qualifying event (UA/NSTEMI or STEMI) was used as the stratification factor.

The relationship between body weight/age and clearance of the active metabolite of prasugrel was derived based on the population pharmacokinetic analysis. The analysis was performed for studies TAAD and TABR.

Pretreatment with clopidogrel prior to PCI has been accepted to potentially provide increased benefit. This is based on the observation that pretreatment at 6 hours or longer prior to PCI is needed with a 300 mg or larger loading dose to achieve maximal effects on the platelet aggregation more rapidly^{1,2,3}. Among patients in whom clopidogrel was initiated at least 6 hours prior to PCI in the CREDO trial, a 38% reduction in the relative risk of the cardiovascular endpoint (death, MI or stroke) was observed⁴ compared to those who received loading dose later. Further, the ACC/AHA 2007 guidelines for the management of patients with UA/NSTEMI recommend administration of clopidogrel 300 mg at least 6 hours earlier than planned catheterization or PCI⁵. However, it should be noted that this is Class IIa/Level B evidence, indicating conflicting evidence from single randomized trial or non-randomized studies⁵. In the current submission for study TAAL, the ACC/AHA guidelines of pre-treatment were not followed.

Hence the relationship between the time of loading dose with respect to the start of PCI and the incidence of the efficacy endpoint was graphically explored. The difference between the times of the loading dose and the start of PCI were divided into octiles (8 equal parts) and the proportions of the events were plotted against the midpoints of the octiles. Kaplan-Meier and Cox regression analysis were employed to further explore the relationships between the quartiles of loading dose and PCI time difference and the time-to- efficacy endpoint. Further exploratory analyses of the difference in the time of loading dose and the start of PCI were performed to identify correlated risk factors.

¹ Seyfarth et al. Am Heart J. 2002;143:118-123

² Muller et al. Heart. 2001;85:92-93

³ Helft et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2000;20:2316-2321

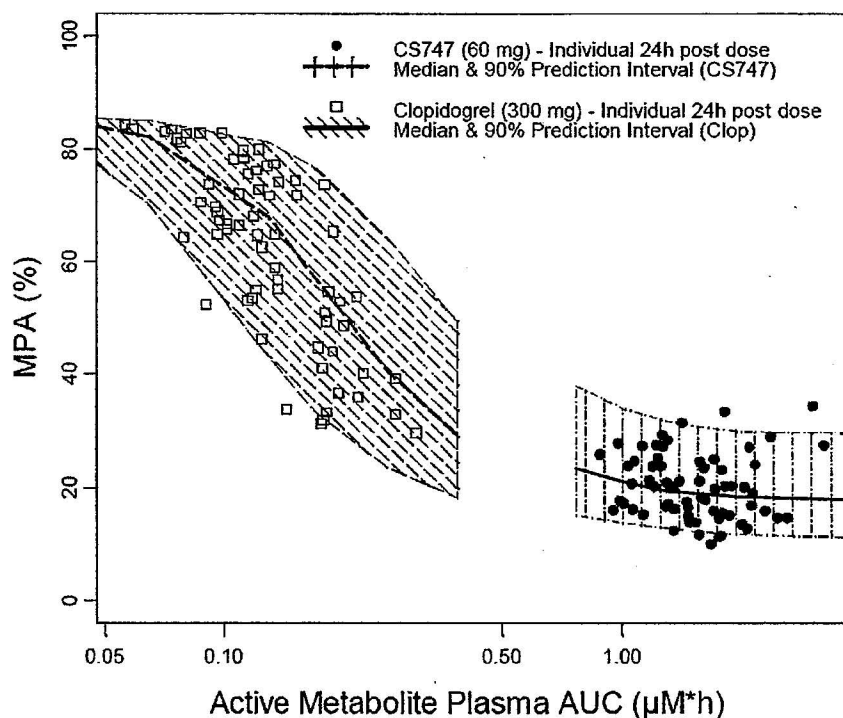
⁴ Steinhubl et al. JAMA. 2002;288,19:2411-2420

⁵ ACC/AHA Guidelines Revision. Circulation. 2007;116:803-877

1) What are the characteristics of the exposure-response relationships (dose-response, concentration-response) for efficacy?

The pharmacological response to clopidogrel or prasugrel is inhibition of platelet aggregation. A semi-mechanistic model was developed to describe relationship between the active metabolite concentrations of prasugrel or clopidogrel and inhibition of platelet aggregation. The active metabolites for both prasugrel and clopidogrel are reported to have similar affinities for binding to the P2Y₁₂ receptor of the platelets. Concentration dependent inhibition of platelet aggregation was seen as shown in Figure 1. Similarly a dose dependent increase in platelet aggregation was observed in Study TAAD.

Figure 1: The inhibition of the platelet aggregation is dependent on the concentration of the active metabolites of prasugrel and clopidogrel (MPA – Maximum Platelet Aggregation; solid line – median, shaded area – 90% prediction interval; Source: Figure TAAJ.11.19)



The clinical endpoint for measuring the efficacy is a composite of Cardiovascular death (CVD), Non-fatal Myocardial Infarction and Non-fatal Stroke (cardiovascular events). Till date there is no established relationship between inhibition of platelet aggregation and the clinical endpoint. Since only one dose level of prasugrel (60 mg LD/10 mg MD) was studied in the pivotal trial,