Duke | MARGOLIS CENTER *for* Health Policy

Scientific and Ethical Considerations for the Inclusion of Pregnant Women in Clinical Trials

February 2 & 3, 2020 • Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Agenda

Pregnant women have historically been excluded from clinical trials for new and existing therapeutics, but many women still use medically necessary drugs during the course of pregnancy.[1] Clearer scientific understanding of the risks and benefits associated with the use of medications during pregnancy, for pregnant women and their developing fetuses, is essential to the safe and effective management of chronic and acute medical conditions experienced during pregnancy. Even though the scientific community has begun to acknowledge the importance of conducting clinical trials during pregnancy, barriers to clinical research remain. Increasing researcher awareness of the requirements and prospective approaches for the conduct of clinical trials in pregnancy can facilitate therapeutic development to address unmet medical need in the pregnant population.

Accordingly, the Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy at Duke University, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is convening this public meeting to discuss the need for clinical research in this complex population as well as scientific and ethical considerations for the inclusion of pregnant women in clinical trials.

Day One | Introduction and Preclinical Research

12:00 p.m. **Welcome and Overview**

12:05 p.m. **Opening Remarks from FDA**

Presentation: Overview of FDA's Role in the PRGLAC Taskforce and Efforts to Support Corresponding Pregnancy Research Initiatives

12:15 p.m. **Session 1: Understanding the Need and Existing Guidance for the Participation of Pregnant Women in Clinical Trials**
Moderator: Susan McCune, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Objectives:

- Discuss objectives of PRGLAC and accomplishments and future goals
- Discuss regulatory, scientific and ethical considerations for enrollment of pregnant women in clinical research as articulated in FDA Guidance
- Discuss urgent and key areas of unmet needs for therapeutic development or clinical data in obstetrics

Presentations

[1] U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Pregnant Women: Scientific and Ethical Considerations for Inclusion in Clinical Trials Guidance for Industry - Draft Guidance. 2018.

1:00 p.m. **Session 2: Nonclinical Safety Assessment to Support Clinical Trials during Pregnancy**
Moderator: Daniel Minck, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Objectives:

- Discuss nonclinical data as a critical factor in FDA's benefit-risk assessment for clinical trials
- Discuss characteristics of a standard nonclinical program designed to assess the safety of a product in the antenatal period
- Discuss the availability of expert resources and decisional processes for study recommendations including clinical holds
- Discuss why a lack of nonclinical reproductive toxicity testing can contribute to difficulty in predicting clinical safety in both a mother and their fetus/newborn

Presentations

Open Discussion

2:15 p.m. **Break**

2:30 p.m. **Session 3: Scientific and Ethical Considerations when Designing Clinical Trials that Enroll Pregnant Women**
Moderator: Susan McCune, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Objectives:

- Discuss challenges when considering use of investigational drugs in understudied populations (pregnant women, fetuses, neonates, long-term child development)
- Discuss factors that impact decisions to evaluate specific therapies in pregnancy, including ethics, unmet need, and risk-benefit
- Discuss potential designs for dose-finding trials in pregnant women
- Discuss approaches to ensuring that studies are designed to capture the time dependency of physiologic changes in pregnancy
- Discuss how patient risk-preference information informs clinical trial design and regulatory review
- Discuss the need for long-term safety follow-up studies in exposed infant/child

Panel Discussion

Open Discussion

3:45 p.m. **Day One Adjournment**

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Day Two | Approaches to Clinical Trial Design and Conduct and Next Steps to Advance Therapeutic Development

12:00 p.m. **Opening Remarks and Summary of Day 1**

12:05 p.m. **Case Study: Comparing and Contrasting Clinical Trials Enrolling Pregnant Women to Evaluate Treatment for a Chronic Medical Condition and Clinical Trials for a Pregnancy-Related Condition**
Moderator: Mark McClellan, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy

Objectives:

- Present a hypothetical case study of an HIV clinical trial that allows enrollment of pregnant women and another case of a trial enrolling only pregnant women for the study of a pre-eclampsia treatment
- Compare and contrast ethical and scientific challenges, as well as other challenges associated with trial design

Presentation

Panel Discussion

Open Discussion

1:30 p.m. **Break**

1:40 p.m. **Session 4: Challenges and Next Steps**
Moderator: Mark McClellan, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy

Objectives:

- Discuss challenges to conducting clinical studies in pregnant women and related to:
  - Funding
  - Scientific barriers
  - Clinical trial infrastructure
  - Medicolegal risks
- Discuss next steps to promote and facilitate clinical studies in pregnant women

Panel Discussion

Open Discussion

3:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment**

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