Duke | MARGOLIS CENTER *for* Health Policy

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

February 2 & 3, 2021 • Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Agenda

Pregnant people have historically been excluded from clinical trials for new and existing therapeutics, but many people 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 people 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 people in clinical trials.

Day One | Introduction and Preclinical Research

12:00 p.m. **Welcome and Overview**
Catherine Sewell, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

12:05 p.m. **Opening Remarks from FDA**
Kaveeta Vasisht, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

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 People 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 people in clinical research as articulated in FDA Guidance
- Discuss urgent and key areas of unmet needs for therapeutic development or clinical data in obstetrics

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 Pregnant Women: Scientific and Ethical Considerations for Inclusion in Clinical Trials Guidance for Industry - Draft Guidance. 2018.

Presentations

- **Leyla Sahin**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- **Aaron Pawlyk**, National Institutes of Health
- **Jeanne Sheffield**, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Open Discussion

1:00 p.m. **Session 2: Nonclinical Safety Assessment to Support Clinical Trials Enrolling Pregnant People**
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 pregnant person and their fetus/newborn

Presentations

- **Kimberly Hatfield**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- **Leslie McKinney**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Open Discussion

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

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

Objectives:

- Discuss the ethical and scientific challenges when considering use of investigational drugs in understudied populations (pregnant people, fetuses, neonates, long-term child development)
- Discuss factors that impact decisions to evaluate specific therapies in pregnancy, including ethics, unmet need, and benefit-risk, risk of untreated condition
- Discuss potential designs for trials in pregnant people (dose-finding, pragmatic trials, opportunistic/natural history studies, efficacy and safety studies)
- Discuss timing of enrollment, e.g., approaches to ensuring that studies address the timing of physiologic changes in pregnancy, when to stop a trial
- Discuss how patient risk-preference information informs clinical trial design and regulatory review

Panel Discussion

- **Christine Nguyen**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- **Cathy Spong**, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- **Maggie Little**, Georgetown University
- **Christina Bucci-Rechtweg,** Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
- **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Columbia University Medical Center
- **Kathryn Schubert**, Society for Women's Health Research

Open Discussion

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

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**
Catherine Sewell, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

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

Objectives:

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

Presentations

- **Lynne Mofenson**, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
- **Catherine Sewell**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Panel Discussion

- **Shahin Lockman**, Harvard University
- **Susan Kindig**, Eli Lilly and Company
- **Anne Lyerly**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- **Yodit Belew**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Open Discussion

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

1:40 p.m. **Session 4: Challenges and Next Steps**

Moderator: Marta Wosińska, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy

Objectives:

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

Panel Discussion

- **Kathryn Schubert,** Society for Women's Health Research
- **Christina Bucci-Rechtweg**, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
- **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Columbia University Medical Center
- **Karim Calis,** National Institutes of Health
- **Leslie Meltzer Henry**, Johns Hopkins University
- **Lynne Yao**, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Open Discussion

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

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