



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

Improving Regulatory Reviews A considerations

Isca Cerreta

Scientific Administrator – CNS section, Safety and Efficacy of Medicines
European Medicines Agency

Feedback on EPARs

variability in the presentation

lack of clarity

the total CHMP effort is much larger than reflected in the EPAR

the balance most difficult part to write

Too shy about value judgements

Unclear intellectual process

Variable level of detail

March 2008 CHMP: [Reflection paper on benefit-risk assessment methods](#) with two main recommendations

1. Revise the benefit-risk balance section of the CHMP Assessment Report template
 - Structured list of benefit and risk criteria
 - Guidance
 - Improve consistency, transparency and communication of B/R
2. Research methodologies of benefit-risk balance
 - Involving experts, assessors, and specialists in Decision Theory

Benefit-Risk Methodology Project

e:

development and testing of tools and processes for balancing multiple benefits and risks as an aid to informed regulatory decisions about medicinal products

eframe:

2009 – 12/2011 » Main research

2012 – 12/2012 » Pilot phase + initial implementation

2013 - ... » Part of core business + continuous research

In this presentation:

- **Coordinating different inputs**
- **Maintaining independence**
- **Improving decision making**
- **Improving Report Writing**
- **Accurate reflection in product information**

MA evaluation process is a choir with any singers

- Rapporteur/coRapporteur
- Peer reviewer
- PRAC
- EMA secretariat (paediatric, geriatric, RMP, quality review)
- Scientific Advisory Groups

Build a strong and transparent Conflict of Interest policy

Helps to build trust to public and colleagues

Network of 3500 experts. Public.

Risk levels and tasks

Can be found on our website

mitation: expertise in very

specialised / innovative areas

What makes a good regulatory decision?

- Take the “right” decision - and do it in a rational, predictable way (avoid Type I and Type II errors)
- Justify/explain the decision
- Communicate the decision (+justification + explanation) to external stakeholders
- Provide more detail than just “yes/no” (qualitative to quantitative)

ckground

o good-enough definition of benefit-risk in legislation

HMP audit in November 2004: Need for a more
systematic approach that will improve consistency of B/
analyses

MA/CHMP Working Group set up in May 2006

Benefit-Risk Methodology Project

Work Packages:

- : Describe current practice of B-R assessment
- : Assess applicability of current tools for regulatory B-R assessment
- : Develop and field test tools and processes to demonstrate their usefulness
- : Synthesize information from the field test and develop a B-R tool box for everyday use.
- : Develop a training package for regulatory assessors

Benefit-Risk assessment

From art to science

Goals to achieve:

- Justify / explain decision
- Implicit criteria -> Explicit criteria
- Enhance predictability and auditability of regulatory decisions
- Enhance communication to outside world
- Qualitative -> Quantitative

Benefit-Risk assessment

Art or science?

Ingredients of regulatory decisions:

Data (incidences)

Uncertainty

Values (utilities/disutilities)

Decisions driven by:

probability of event x “value” of event

-> **“expected utilities”**

Whose values should count?

**It is increasingly difficult to bring
new drugs to market...**

**...but it will be even harder to
keep them on the market**

Drugs (and regulators) become victims
of the Efficacy-Effectiveness gap

se study: Acomplia rimonabant
mg



un 2006: approved for obesity and over-
weight patients.

“effect was moderate and of clinical
relevance for 20-30% of patients”)

Phase study: Acomplia rimonabant
mg



Jan 2009: marketing authorisation withdrawn
in light of post-approval data

“new data indicated a shorter duration of treatment in h life
and a reduced beneficial effect...

“risk of experiencing the adverse mental effects are higher in
patients with comorbidity”)

Sources of variability contributing to poor performance in real world

Biology

Behavior

Genomics

Environment

Physician
prescribing

Patient
adherence

nt' s genomic
up

Co-morbidity,
baseline severity
of disease, altered
physiological
states, external
factors

Inappropriate
prescribing,
prescribing to non-
responders,
medication errors

Poor adherence to
prescribed drug
regimen, non-
persistence; "drug
holidays"

Current model of licensing “The Magic Moment”



The graph features a vertical red line on the left and a horizontal red line at the top. An orange curve starts at the bottom left and rises towards the top right. Four vertical bars are positioned along the curve: three are red and one is green. The green bar is the tallest and is located between the first and second red bars. The text 'Adaptive Licensing' is written in red below the green bar.

Adaptive
Licensing

adaptive Licensing ...

is a prospectively planned, adaptive approach to regulation of drugs. Through iterative phases of information gathering followed by regulatory evaluation and action, adaptive licensing seeks to align regulatory market access of a new drug with emerging information on benefits and harms.

Adaptive Licensing scenarios – “design factors”

- broaden treatment-eligible population
- reduce uncertainty around endpoint
- reduce uncertainty around study design
- reduce statistical uncertainty
- ensure effectiveness
- address rare AEs

Adaptive Licensing – what conditions must be in place to make it work?

Manage concerns over lowered standards?

Commitment from industry to conduct “stage n+1 studies” ?

Alignment between regulatory – payers – prescribers?

Different reward/incentive structure warranted?

Feasible under current regulatory framework?

Feedback on EPARs

variability in the presentation

lack of clarity

the total CHMP effort is much larger than reflected in the EPAR

EB balance most difficult part to write

Too shy about value judgements

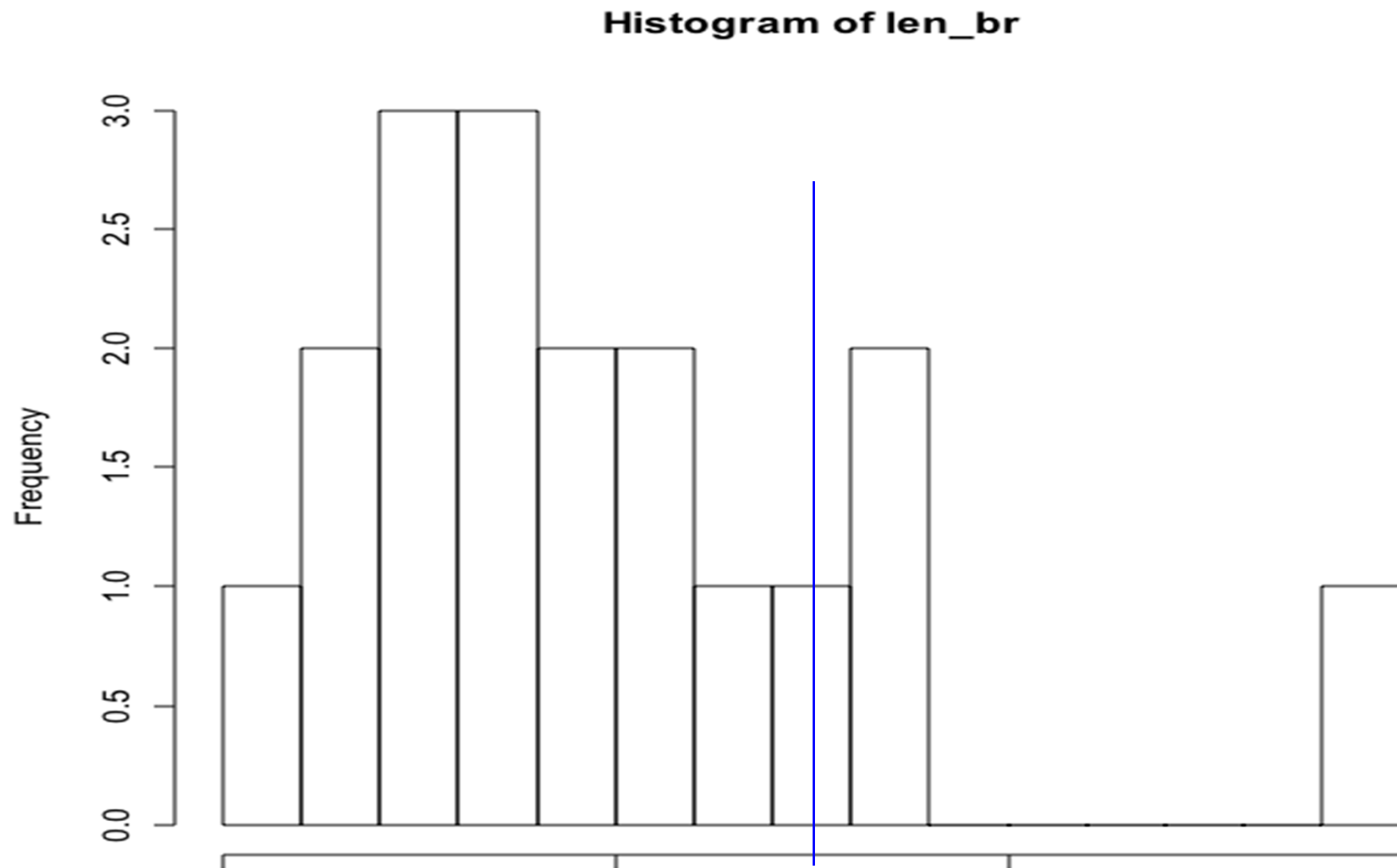
Unclear intellectual process

Variable level of detail

ed to satisfy multiple readers

MP Peers	Clear, brief, multiple views
EMA Committees	COMP, CAT, PDCO, PRAC ...
H, competitors	Constructive criticism, attention to confidentiality
Health Care professionals	Scientifically rigorous, rational than emotional
ents, public, media	Avoid jargon Political correctness
yers	What is the legal basis? Are legal requirements fulfilled? Support CHMP Opinion (SmPC)
bodies	Help relative effectiveness assessment

Length In Words Of BR Balance Section in EPAR (20 mple of 20 EPARS)



General Principles

Explain how the data fulfil the legal requirements

Justify Opinion (explicitly)

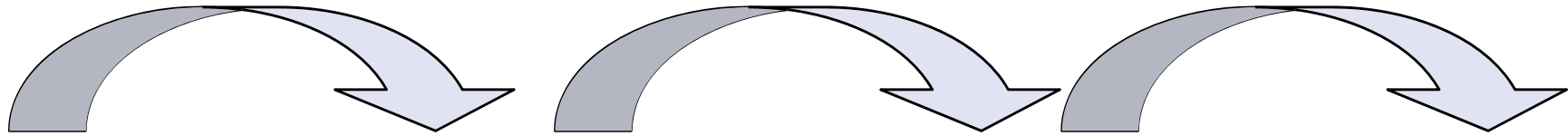
Distinguish between data submitted and CHMP conclusions

Reference any statement

Use the style of Scientific Publication

(Introduction) (Methods) (Results) (Discussion)

IRD



Introduction - Methods - Results - Discussion

Write for clarity

Be concise

Distinguish between data submitted and CHMP conclusions

Reference any statement

roduction

present the nature and scope of problem

State the objectives, and requirements

State the principal results)

State the principal conclusion)

atch out

General statements not based on data (use references)

Statements about benefits of other products, medical need, relative effectiveness

Results

-select results (important and new results)
-provide the big picture, then present the details
-be concise

“Results are in Tables 1-4 and Figures 3-6”

Watch out

Representative data not listings: “*The fool collects facts, the wise man selects them*” (J.W. Powell)

Avoid Redundancy

“It is clearly shown by the data in Table 1 that nafcillin inhibited the growth of *N. gonorrhoea*”

“Nafcillin inhibited the growth of *N. gonorrhoea* (Table 1)”

Discussion

the core of the report

Draw conclusions from the data

Summarise evidence for each conclusion

Explain the logic (Why? How much?)

Make sure message is crystal clear

Stick to your topic: **do the data fulfil the legal requirements?**

Watch out

Don't copy from MAA

Too long and verbose, repeat results, irrelevant

Too short, only conclusive statement

The “squid technique”, doubtful about the facts or reasoning
retreat behind a cloud of ink (D.Savile)

describing cause-effect relationships

Difficult to prove cause-effect relationships, a matter of judgement

“The study **demonstrates** the efficacy of doxorubicin”

“In the study, an improvement in survival was **observed** for doxorubicin. On the basis of all data submitted, the **CHMP concluded** that efficacy had been established according regulatory standards.”

Benefit-Risk Assessment Template

Benefits

Beneficial effects

Uncertainty in the knowledge about the benefits

Risks

Unfavourable effects

Uncertainty in the knowledge about the risks

Balance

Importance of favourable and unfavourable effects

Benefit-risk balance

Discussion on the benefit-risk assessment

Conclusions

here?

Google “CHMP templates”

www.ema.europa.eu

Regulatory

Human medicines

- Pre-authorisation
 - Assessment templates and guidance
- Post-authorisation
 - Assessment templates

Re-Authorisation Templates and Guidance

Templates and guidance documents as of September 2010

Guidance (PDF) Downloads Template (Word) Downloads

[AR Overview Guidance](#) [D80 AR Overview Template](#)

[AR Quality Guidance](#)

[D80 AR Quality Template](#)

[AR Non-Clinical Guidance](#)

[D80 AR Non-Clinical Template](#)

[AR Clinical Guidance](#)

[D80 AR Clinical Template](#)

D120, D150, D180, Re-examination...

The pitfalls of too many templates?

Benefit-Risk Assessment section

Benefits

Beneficial effects

Uncertainty in the knowledge about the benefits

S

Unfavourable effects

Uncertainty in the knowledge about the risks

ance

Importance of favourable and unfavourable effects

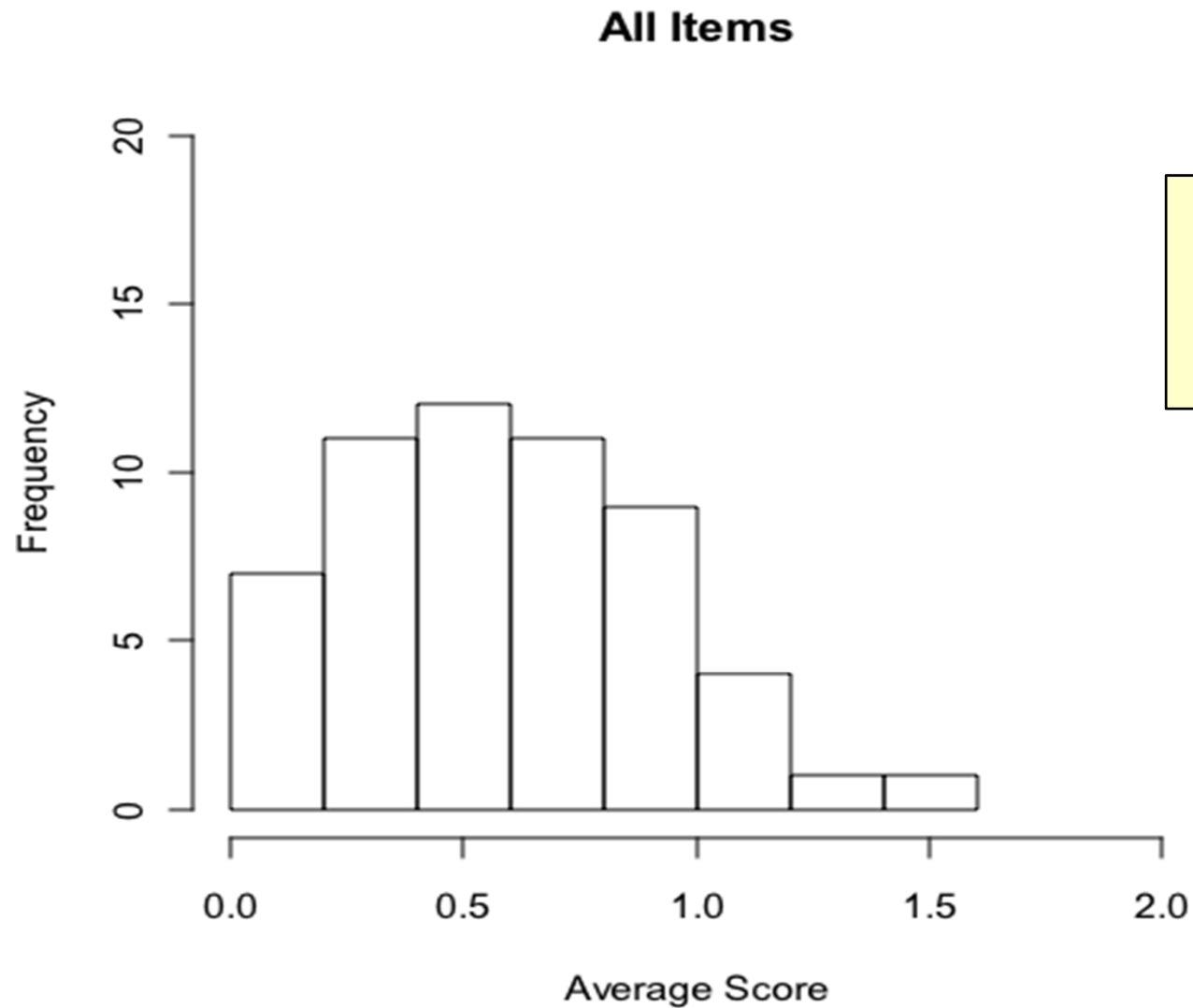
Benefit-risk balance

Discussion on the benefit-risk assessment

Conclusions

0=Not covered
1=Partly covered
2=Fully covered

Overall Compliance



0=Not covered
1=Partly covered
2=Fully covered

Summary

CHMP AR Template Guidance

Distinguish Data from Interpretation
Discussion, Benefit-Risk balance

Relevance

What is the legal basis?

Are legal requirements fulfilled?

Support CHMP Opinion (SmPC)

Independence

CHMP takes responsibility for own statements

Don't copy/paste whole sections from MAA

IMP AR and SmPC

Introduction

Claimed and approved indication (4.1), posology (4.2)

Quality

Qualitative And Quantitative Composition (2), Pharmaceutical form (3)

Non-Clinical

Discussion (5.3 Preclinical safety data, 4.3, contraindications, 4.5 Interactions, 4.6 Pregnancy and lactation, 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties)

CHMP AR and SmPC

Technical Pharmacology

Discussion (5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties)

Technical efficacy

Discussion (4.2, dosing in special populations; 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties)

Technical Safety

Subheadings... (4.8 Undesirable effects, 4.9 Overdose)

Discussion (4.3, contraindications, 4.4 special warnings, 4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines)

and don't forget the package leaflet!

Thank you for your attention

With acknowledgement and special thanks to:

Georg Eichler

Francesco Pignatti

Nikolaos Zafiropoulos

