Pediatric Disease Progression

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The Challenge to Sanity

*What’s really important here*

- How can I judge if the adult or pediatric disease are similar if I don’t understand the adult disease progression?
  - How should this (disease progression) be defined and/or quantified?

- What are reasonable criteria for assessing “similarity” of disease?
  - Do criteria change with the disease? How? Why?
The Challenge to Sanity

Why do we care?

Figure 1: FDA Pediatric Study Decision Tree

Is it reasonable to assume that children, when compared to adults, have a similar disease progression and (b) response to intervention?

No to either

Is it reasonable to assume exposure response (ER) in children when compared to adults?

Yes to both

No

Is there a pharmacodynamic (PD) measurement that can be used to predict efficacy in children?

No

Option A

Conduct PK studies to establish dosing and then conduct safety and efficacy trials in children.

Yes

Conduct PK/PD studies to establish an ER in children for the PD measurement, conduct PK studies to achieve target concentrations based on ER, and then conduct safety trials at the proper dose.

Option B

Conduct pharmacokinetic (PK) studies in children which are designed to achieve levels similar to adults and then conduct safety trials at

Do I really have the data to answer that question?
Disease Progression

What’s Important – Common Terms of Interest

• Onset / diagnosis
• Prevalence
• Variation in disease manifestation (phenotype)
• Genetic predisposition (genotype)
• Clinical manifestation (signs and symptoms)
• Disease stage / severity
• Comorbidities of disease and progression
Disease Progression

*Current Research vs Regulatory Needs*

- Most of the research focus has been about measuring the right outcomes that define pediatric disease progression
  - Emphasis on tailoring treatment options → precision medicine for children.

- Comparison of pediatric and adult progression is not a major point of interest (though some are clearly engaged)
Examples of Current Efforts


• Pediatric non alcoholic fatty liver disease: old and new concepts on development, progression, metabolic insight and potential treatment targets. Giorgio et al. BMC Pediatrics 2013, 13:40
Examples of Current Efforts

  - Focus on quantify patient phenotypes
  - “Progression” correlated with predictors
  - No QALY component
Examples of Current Efforts


Kaplan–Meier curve demonstrating patients at high risk of disease progression versus low risk. Definition of risk was based on whether patients met criteria on the classification and regression tree analysis for significant disease progression using all 4 tiers.

• “Risk” defined by classification but no ability to reassess risk over time
• No emphasis on impact of clinical treatment options
• Conventional survival analysis
Examples of Current Efforts


“We aimed, first, to determine the relationship between viral replicative capacity and disease progression in pediatric infection; second, to assess the impact of maternal HLA and maternal VRC on VRC in the child; third, to compare the impact of both protective and disease-susceptible HLA alleles, respectively, on the VRC of viruses in adults and children; and, finally, to compare the impact of protective and disease-susceptible HLA on disease outcome adults and children.”
Judging Similarity

Controls for Disease Progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Controls (Adult = Pediatrics)</th>
<th>Negative Controls (Adult ≠ Pediatrics)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial Infection</td>
<td>Asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease - cardiomyopathies</td>
<td>ADHD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Acquired Pneumonia</td>
<td>MDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes Labialis (cold sores)</td>
<td>Generalized Anxiety Disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrane</td>
<td>Solid Tumors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Hepatitis B</td>
<td>heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is this validated to everyone’s thinking?
Quantitative data supporting why or why not?
Can there be a standard for judging criteria?

Adult Disease Progression Value

• As a reference for comparison
  – Time course similarity?
  – Response measure similarity?
  – Portability of outcome variable?
  – Patient genotype / phenotype?

• As an anchor for the pediatric model development
Does a model help us? How?

• First question – What *kind* of model?
  – Mechanistic?
  – Empiric?
  – Predictive?

• Is there one type more relevant to the question of interest?
  – Pediatric vs Adult disease progression
Predictive Progression Models

**Types**

- Path models
- Oncogenetic tree models
- Distanced-based trees
- Directed acyclic graph models
- Oncogenetic tree mixture models
- Network aberration models
- Conjunctive Bayesian networks
- Hidden variable oncogenetic trees

*Figure 2.1: Example of an oncogenetic tree model with $n = 6$ events*
Perspective on Model Value and Focus

What interests you more?

• What happened?
• Who did it happen to?
• Could I prevent what happened?
• Can I predict what’s going to happen next?

*Your ranking of these questions dictates (to a certain extent) the type of model you need and/or want*
Summary

• Marching down the pediatric decision tree should not occur until the first question is answered in a convincing manner.
• Addressing pediatric disease progression is more than simply a regulatory process check for sponsors and requires a multidisciplinary and multi-environment effort.
• Compelling, quantitative examples need to be generated. An open discussion on how similarity of disease can be defined is needed.