1 It can also be used to mathematically express the 2 degree of suppression that we get with this equation and 3 this model, then, allows us to predict how much cortisol 4 suppression we would observe for various treatments.

[Slide.]

This is a study that we have done some time ago on 6 triamcinolone acetonid after intravenous, oral and 7 inhalative administration. We measured the kinetics and, 8 based on the blood levels, then, model the effect on 9 cortisol and just see, for all three treatments, that it 10 works very nicely. The dashed line is the baseline pre-dose 11 line and the other line is the suppressed curve measured and 12 modeled. 13

14

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[Slide.]

15 So this allows, us, then, then to make pretty good 16 predictions, basically to translate the pharmacokinetics of 17 the inhaled steroids, the serum concentrations, into the 18 expected degree of cortisol suppression. Again, the best 19 cumulative parameter to summarize this data is the AUC 20 between baseline and treated group and express it in 21 percent.

[Slide.]

We have developed a spreadsheet, an Excel spreadsheet, that puts all this information together and one location and one can, then, enter the drug, the dose, the

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time of dose, which is important, and the device. Based on population average parameters, the program then will calculate an expected cortisol curve over 24 hours, calculate the percent cumulative suppression.

[Slide.]

6 We have, then, compared these predictions with a 7 number of studies. All of these dots here represent major 8 clinical studies that were not done by us. These are 9 studies taken from the literature. We have shown a nice 10 correlation between the predicted cumulative cortisol 11 suppression based on the model that I have just shown you 12 and the measured and reported data in the literature.

So, really, all we are doing is we are translating the kinetic information into the dynamic information and it is quite consistent. That makes sense because corticosteroids all work the same way. They have the same exact mechanism of action.

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[Slide.]

Briefly, on other systemic-dynamic parameters, lymphocytes, the number of lymphocytes go down. This is from the same study that I had shown you earlier, 200 and 500 micrograms of fluticasone, single dose and multiple dose. You see, in red, placebo and, in black, the treatment group. Again, there is a significant decrease but of small magnitude.

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[Slide.]

2 Only for the higher doses was it significant. The 3 same was true for flunisolide, here.

[Slide.]

5 Similar results can be observed on the 6 granulocytes, where we have the opposite effect. The number 7 of granulocytes goes up, dose-dependent. This is 8 flunisolide data here, 400 and 1000, single dose and 9 multiple dose. In only this case, in the multiple dose 10 situation, was it significantly different.

11 So, again, really, these parameters allow you to 12 compare different compounds but they do not really improve 13 the information that we get on systemic exposure if we 14 compare two different formulations of the same compound.

[Slide.]

16 So, if we summarize this, if the issue is 17 bioequivalence, we want to compare two formulations, we 18 should simply take the plasma concentrations and no other 19 data is really needed. Whereas, if we want to compare 20 different steroids, that is a different question. And then 21 24-hour serum cortisol at steady state seems to be the 22 parameter of choice.

[Slide.]

Now, let's move on the real hard question, and that is local exposure. How can we express local exposure.

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How can we measure how much drug gets to the site of action
 in the lung. There are two different approaches. One is
 direct and one is indirect. Unfortunately, the direct
 measurements are limited to animal experiments.

5 Lung microdialysis is a very promising new 6 technique where one can put a probe into the lung and 7 measure directly the unbound concentrations. We are doing 8 this right now in animal studies and getting very nice data 9 but this is, unfortunately, not applicable to human studies.

Pulmonary-receptor occupancy; same issue. One can measure the steroid occupancy with binding assays. Again, unfortunately, this is only possible ex vivo and in animal studies.

The third direct way is gamma scintigraphy where one can follow the label. However, that has the downside that one would no longer study the original formulation but only after manipulation and introducing the label.

18 So we are really limited with indirect 19 measurements but I hope that I can show that they may be of 20 value. One way to go is to look at the pulmonary absorption 21 profile after application of charcoal and deconvolution. So 22 let's look at that a little more in detail.

[Slide.]

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We have to keep in mind some basic pulmonary delivery concepts. First of all, before the drug is active

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in the lung, and the steroid needs to be dissolved and get
into the cell, the receptors on the cytosol. Also, only
unbound fraction of the drug is active, so binding is an
important factor.

5 Then, all of the drug that reaches the cytosolic 6 steroid receptor then will be absorbed systemically. So, of 7 all the components that are available so far, they will not 8 magically disappear but, then, the next step is systemic 9 absorption so one can really not have one without the other.

Thirdly, one should be very careful in looking at the literature not using total tissue concentrations, not using biopsy numbers, because they are hybrid numbers and reflect the sum of the drug in the tissue and are very difficult to interpret quantitatively.

[Slide.]

Furthermore, it is important to keep in mind that the delivery efficiency is a very important factor. This is a simulation to show that if you increase the percent of the drug that is delivered into the lung that, then, the targeting will be improved.

If you compare two compounds with an oral bioavailability of 10 percent, drug A, and an oral bioavailability of 0, drug B, then, if 10 percent gets into the lung by our device, that means, then, the systemic variability for compound A will be 19 percent, 10 percent

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coming from the lung and 9 percent is 10 percent of the remaining 90 percent, so that adds to 19 percent, whereas for compound B, it is only the 10 percent that goes to the lung which is a ratio of 1.9.

If you improve, for the same compounds, the delivery to 30 percent and do the same calculations, you end up with 37 percent systemically and 30 percent, and that is a ratio of 1.2. So the oral bioavailability becomes less of an issue the more you deliver to the lung. That makes sense.

[Slide.]

So how can we differentiate, when we inhale, how 12 much of the drug goes in through the lung versus the GI 13 There are three approaches. One is to simply use a 14 tract. drug that doesn't have any GI absorption. That is, of 15 course, the easiest way. Or, if it is to block the GI 16 absorption with charcoal, the third approach in the 17 literature is utilize early time points where the pulmonary 1.8 absorption is dominant and oral absorption is not yet very 19 large. 20

[Slide.]

Fluticasone propionate will be an example for the first case where we have oral bioavailability of less than a percent, or around 1 percent, so one can assume that the vast majority of the drug that shows up systemically comes

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from the lung.

[Slide.]

2	[Slide.]
3	Charcoal has been used to separate the route of
4	entry. This is a study on budesonide where two devices were
5	compared, Turbuhaler MD-MDI, with and without charcoal, and,
6	by calculation, then of the different profiles, one can show
7	that the contribution from the lung and the GI is different.
8	. [Slide.]
9	This is the Turbuhaler here and we see that the
10	fraction that is coming through the lung is much, much
11	larger than from the MDI by comparison of the absorption
12	with and without charcoal. If one does it right, if the
13	charcoal application is optimized, one can almost
14	completely, or completely, block, the absorption.
15	[Slide.]
16	This is an example from not a steroid but
17	terbutaline. Oral bioavailability with and without charcoal
18	where it was possible to block the oral route almost
19	completely.
20	[Slide.]
21	So, what one can do now is to really find out how
22	the drug enters the body and also describe the time course
23	of absorption and, thereby, the time course of pulmonary
24	residence, is to use old-fashioned pharmacokinetics. What
25	is needed for that is a good characterization of the

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	1	disposition which one only can get by an intravenous study.
	2	So, if an intravenous study is done and the
	3	kinetic parameters are determined, like in this example of
	4	fluticasone propionate, and then a clearance of distribution
	5	is calculated after IV administration, then an inhalation
	6	experiment is made and, again, the kinetic parameters are
	7	calculated.
	. 8	. This is here an example from several studies from
	9	our group and others on the resulting profiles. And then
	10	you can use pharmacokinetic concepts such as deconvolution.
	11	[Slide.]
	12	This is one example, the so-called Loo-Riegelman
	13	method, allows then to calculate an absorption profile which
	14	is the rate of entry. If you block with charcoal, or have a
	15	drop that is not already absorbed, it is equal, then, to the
•	16	pulmonary residence time
	17	[Slide.]
	18	you end up with a profile such as this
	19	absorption profile. It is percent absorbed versus time that
	20	allows you, then, to characterize and compare, in this case,
	21	different compounds but also different formulations of the
	22	same compound and would mirror, then, what is going on in
	23	the lung.
	24	[Slide.]
	25	One noncompartmental way to express the same data

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is to use a mean-residence-time approach where, again, you need the intravenous data, calculate the mean-residence time after intravenous administration and after inhalation. If the inhalation is only through the lung, then the difference between the two will be equal to the mean absorption time or also equal to the mean pulmonary residence time. You would have a quantitative way of comparing.

[Slide.]

The fourth way, and the one that we have heard in 9 the previous presentation, is to use pharmacodynamics as a 10 11 measure of local exposure. I think the data that we have 12 seen so far are very discouraging because, for the small differences that we want to detect, particularly in 13 bioequivalence studies, the variability is very high and, 14 therefore, the ability to discriminate between products is 15 limited. 16

Another way to go would be to use surrogate endpoints. There is a lot of work that is being done right now to identify surrogate endpoints for steroid activity and it is the big hope that, one of these days, we will find one that is really reproducible and can, early on, tell us what we can expect after chronic use of the drug. But, so far, unfortunately, there is none

24 available that is really of that quality.

[Slide.]

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So, I believe, right now, pharmacokinetics is our 1 best bet and I believe that it is much more than just a 2 measure of systemic exposure, that if you use kinetics 3 correctly, that it is able to give us information about the 4 local exposure as well so that one approach to tackle 5 bioequivalence problems with inhaled corticosteroids is, 6 first of all, of course, to have in vitro studies -- and that 7 was the discussion we had this morning--to come up with good 8 criteria about in vitro equivalence. 9

After in vitro equivalence is shown, then follow up with in vivo studies where equivalent systemic exposure needs to be shown, and that can be done by just measuring plasma concentration, and equivalent pulmonary-absorption profiles that can be shown by showing equivalent absorption profiles using deconvolution methods.

Obviously, the details would need to e worked out and, very difficult, the goalposts need to be defined which will be quite a challenge.

[Slide.]

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20 Would like to close by thanking all the people who 21 have contributed to this data and thank you for your 22 attention.

23 DR. LEE: Thank you, Harmut. I just wonder 24 whether or not the subcommittee members have any questions. 25 I wonder whether or not you have looked at the

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questions for discussion. Maybe, in a way, you have answered this question, which is, are there situations where the in vitro data plus systemic PK and PD data can be relied upon to assure local drug delivery for either nasal or inhaled drugs?

Yes; I believe that that may be DR. DERENDORF: 6 possible, that if you use the data well, that we can make 7 the conclusion that there will be sufficient--unfortunately, 8 9 we don't have any better ways right now to approach this. If we would have a surrogate marker, a pharmacodynamic 10 surrogate marker that would be easily quantifiable for the 11 local activity, certainly that would be even better. But it 12 is not out there. 13

14 So I think what we have right now, this seems to 15 me the best approach.

16 DR. LEE: Were all the data you presented human 17 data?

DR. DERENDORF: Yes.

DR. LEE: Thank you.

DR. BEHL: One quick comment. Even if you have some data that goes to the correlation of PK and PD, it is very hard for me to believe that PK can be used as a means to judge local effect.

DR. DERENDORF: What we are trying to do here is-we have two different issues here. If it comes to

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bioequivalence, the traditional, or the approach that it used with bioequivalence for systemic drugs is if we show equal or equivalent exposure within a certain range with certain confidence, then we imply that the effects will be equivalent. 5

This is exactly the same approach that I would 6 propose here. There is no need, in my opinion, for clinical 7 studies. The systemic equivalency can be done just by 8 traditional comparison of plasma concentrations. The more 9 difficult part is the indirectly characterization of the 10 local exposure that could be done by absorption profiles. 11

So, just as with any other bioequivalence, really, there is no need to measure any kind of pharmacodynamics if you follow the same logic that the same exposure profile will result in the same effect.

DR. AHRENS: You made the statement that systemic 16 exposure, if you are using the same compound that you are 17 inhaling, that you only need pharmacokinetics, which makes 18 great sense to me, perhaps, except for beclomethasone 19 because of the fact that there is more than one active 20 species and the absorption profile, the plasma profile, for 21 BDP may not be same as between products and BMP. 22

How would you handle that? Can you do that with 23 kinetics alone? 24

> Yes; I fully agree with you. DR. DERENDORF: Ι

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think the concept still holds. It is more complicated to do 1 because you have several players which you need to interpret and measure all of them and then add up the numbers.

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Again, this is not new. There are other drugs for 4 systemic use where you have active metabolites and the same 5 issues exist there in bioequivalence situations. But, yes; 6 of course, you would need to measure the active metabolites 7 and interpret them correctly. 8

I think that we ought to let him go. We 9 DR. LEE: will come back to this towards the end. Your taxi is 10 11 waiting for you out there.

Let me talk about a few logistic changes because 12 of the shift in the program. We will now take a break and I 13 would like to come back at 3:25, about ten minute. When we 14 come back from the break at 3:25, Dr. Richard Ahrens will be 15 presenting his view on clinical studies for local delivery 16 of orally inhaled corticosteroids. And then the 17 surveillance will go into discussion. Then we will come 18 back on line with the rest of the schedule. 19

Thank you.

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[Break.]

DR. LEE: Before I turn the podium over to Dr. 22 Ahrens, I would like to alert the clinician members of the 23 committee to begin thinking about addressing the three 24 questions in the upcoming sessions. 25

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	1	Dr. Ahrens will be talking about clinical studies
n ningina si pangharanan T	2	for local delivery of orally inhaled corticosteroids.
	3	In Vivo BA and BE:
	4	Clinical Studies for Local Delivery
	5	of Orally Inhaled Corticosteroids
	6	DR. AHRENS: Thank you.
	7	[Slide.]
	8	This is the point where I am, of course, supposed
	9	to say I am happy to be here. It is particularly true this
•	10	time because the topic I am talking about here is an area
	11	that I have been interested in for more than a decade in
	12	terms of the general issue of the assessment of
	13	bioequivalence of inhaled drugs used to treat asthma.
	14	[Slide.]
	15	The task of these clinical studies that I have
	16	been asked to address is, first of all, to address the
	17	issue, predominantly, of generic equivalence to determine
	18	whether the innovator and generic inhaled corticosteroid
	19	deliver bioequivalence quantities of drug to the site of
•	20	action in the lungs. In other words, even if there is a
	21	difference in quantity delivered to the site of action, that
	22	that quantity is not large enough to make an important
	23	clinical difference.
	24	The same approach to addressing this certainly
	25	could also be applied to reformulations that are not

intended to be pharmaceutically equivalent, although, there, it would be determining rather than proving bioequivalence, determining the ratio of doses that are required to deliver equivalent quantities of drug to the site of action.

5 For example, if an FHA inhaler delivered two or 6 three times as much drug to the site of action as an 7 innovator CFC preparation, that may well be okay and 8 approvable but, still particularly important, at least in my 9 opinion, that the clinician knows what that ratio is so that 10 he or she can adjust the dosing strategy appropriately.

[Slide.]

So the concept of how to address this issue of bioequivalence. As we have heard earlier, there is a lot of variability in clinical studies, particularly with inhaled steroids, addressing the issue of bioequivalence.

The typical approach that I think is now reasonably well established in precedence, at least with beta agonists, is to look at formulations along the dose axis rather than the response axis; that is, rather than looking at a comparison or responses, are they equal or not to a given dose level, coming up with a ratio of doses that are likely to produce equal responses.

This is, in essence, using a pharmacodynamic response, in this case a clinical outcome, to bioassay the quantity of drug delivered to site of action. So, in a

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sense, I have difficulty separating, in this context, the issue of clinical study from a pharmacodynamic study because they are getting after, in a sense, the same thing; are we delivering, within the realm of not making a bit clinical difference, an equivalent quantity of drug to the site of action.

[Slide.]

This issue of using the dose axis rather than the response axis is something that has a history relating to albuterol, generic albuterol inhalers. Albuterol, of course, went off patent in 1989. The initial studies that were done to try to address bioequivalence of inhaled albuterol, in fact, did look along the response axis figuring that if you showed equivalent response to two different inhalers at the same dose that they must be 15 bioequivalent, looking, in this case, at bronchodilitation. 16

At the prompting of some people, including myself, 17 a control was put in these studies where the innovator 18 product had more than one dose level. Then, in 1992, when 19 everybody got back together to look at the results of those 20 studies, in horror--Wally, I hope you agree with this 21 history; this is at least my interpretation of the history--22 to everyone's horror, they discovered that the studies 23 couldn't discriminate between different dose levels of the 24 same product. And, if they couldn't do that, then how could 25

they be expected to differentiate different doses delivered by different products.

That led to a search, more advisory committee meetings and a search over the next several years for acceptable and valid methodologies to accomplish this and, ultimately, to the approval of the first generic inhaled albuterol, at least in terms of the in vivo study, a bioassay study, demonstrating bioequivalence.

[Slide.]

10 So the concept here, in essence, is to perform 11 more than one dose level to at least on preparation, 12 preferably both. In this case, this is a so-called two-by-13 two bioassay because there are two doses of each 14 preparation. And then, instead of looking at a comparison 15 of responses, to look, essentially, at the distance between 16 the dose-response curves.

This is the ratio of doses that will produce an equal level of effect. If it takes twice as much to produce the same effect, that test preparation would, therefore, be half as potent.

This is an old concept dating back, probably, to the forties. With well-established validity criteria, you have to have a significant dose-response curve, doseresponse relationship, to act as a standard curve. If you don't, you don't have a valid bioassay. You need to have

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responses that are in the same region -- that is what this 1 means--and the response curves, of course, need to be 2 parallel. 3 With two inhalers delivering the same product, at 4 least, hopefully, you would expect that to be the case. 5 [Slide.] 6 We applied this approach, in my laboratory, to 7 Baker Norton's product. This is the product, the first 8 generic albuterol that was approved, using these data as the 9 in vivo demonstration of bioequivalence. 10 We looked at a response to histamine bronchial 11 provocation, PC20 FEV 1 versus dose, down here. As you can 12 see, the curves largely coincide. And then we applied 13 bioassay statistical methodology to come up with a 14 confidence interval. As you can see here, that was 0.69 15 This met the concurrently established bioequivalence 16 1.40. criteria of being between 0.67 and 1.5, essentially between 17 two-thirds and one-and-a-half times as potent since the 18 entire confidence interval was within that range. 19 [Slide.] 20 That was the analysis that we did using so-called 21 Finney bioassay. The FDA, I think for very good reasons, 22 chose a somewhat different statistical approach which they 23 called a dose-scale approach. We used two doses of each 24 preparation. They, instead, chose to use the reference as a 25

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•	1	standard curve and then compare one dose of the test
	2	preparation at a time.
	3	The curve-fitting methodology was a little bit
	4	different. The method for establishing the confidence
	5	interval, we used Fieller's theorem as part of Finney
	б	bioassay which relies on normal theory whereas they chose to
	7	use the somewhat more robust methodology of bootstrap which
	8	doesn't require normality.
	9	It was comforting to find that the results by
•	10	these two methodologies were virtually the same.
	11	[Slide.]
	12	So that is the concept, at least as it was
	13	developed in addressing inhaled albuterol. Now the problem
	14	at hand is that this kind of bioassay approach has rarely
	15	been applied to inhaled corticosteroids because it is not
	16	very easy to do.
	17	Furthermore, when it has been applied, it has
	18	really met with very limited success. On the next slide, I
	19	will give you an example of that.
	20	[Slide.]
	21	This is, in my humble opinion, the best bioassay
	22	study, if you will, comparing inhaled corticosteroids. It
	23	was a study done by 3M in the approval process of their HFT
•	24	BDP product comparing it to CFC BDP. This was an exceeding
	25	rigorous clinical trial, clinical study, which involved

hundreds of subjects each of which came to the clinic at least five days a week to perform lung functions in many ways that are beyond that. It was an extremely rigorous, carefully done study, not a typical study.

They did succeed in estimating a potency, a dose ratio, that each microgram of HFA is equivalent to 2.6 micrograms of the CFC product. However, if you look at 7 the confidence interval, it stretched from 1.1 to over 11.0, essentially, not a very clinically meaningful confidence interval if it is over a ten-fold range. 10

The fact that it didn't encompass one indicates 11 that, at a statistically significant level, these two 12 preparations are not equivalent. It does not, even with the 13 best study that has been done to date, give you a clear 14 answer as to exactly what that potency ratio is, what the 15 bioequivalent dose is. 16

[Slide.]

This issue has been addressed by a number of 18 people, but, in this recent review by Peter Barnes and Bill 19 Busse and Soren Pedersen, first of all, they noted that this 2.0 was true that, in spite of dozens of studies that are in the 21 literature, it is very difficult to draw firm conclusions 22 comparing comparative efficacy. 23

It is hard to say that anything is different from 24 anything else in the way studies have been done and relate 25

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that to things like study designs, control over important 1 confounding variables and, last but not least, the lack of a 2 strong dose response relationship for inhaled 3 corticosteroids. 4 [Slide.] 5 That leads to the common wisdom that the problem 6 7 with inhaled corticosteroids is that the dose-response curve is just so darned flat that you really can't detect any 8 differences. 9 If this is really true, that the dose-response 10 curve is that flat then, first of all, the dose delivered 11 really doesn't seem to matter much, clinically. If you 12 can't tell a difference in dose, that may mean that the dose 13 doesn't really matter. 14 If that is true, then you don't need to, and, in 15 fact, can't really do a valid bioassay using the concept 16 that I just described simply because you don't have a valid 17 significant dose-response curve. Therefore, you don't have 18 a valid bioassay. 19 [Slide.] 20 You could, therefore, simply rely on clinical 21 trials going back to the concept of comparing responses. By 22 the way, this "no" doesn't belong there. My apologies. 23 Cross that out. You could use a clinical trial showing that 24 two formulations yield similar responses. 25

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That is in fact what was done. 1 This is a recent publication which was presenting data that was at least part 2 of the basis on which a Baker Norton HFA product was 3 approved in the U.K. You can see, they studied morning peak 4 flows here in a group of mild, not so well-controlled, 5 asthmatics and more severe asthmatics. These are actually 6 7 two different studies, hence the different doses of BDP. You can see that there are no significant 8 differences in response. Unfortunately, failure to show a 9 significant difference in response is not at all the same as 10 11 proving the two things are the same. This has lead to a good deal of consternation, I am told, by Dr. Ganderton and 12 others in the U.K. as well as what I understand is a record 13 number of letters to the editor to respiratory medicine 14 particularly when this study and the fact that the Baker 15 16 Norton product was approved on a one-to-one, a one inhalation equals one inhalation basis, with the next study. 17 18 [Slide.] This will be familiar to you. 19 This is the 3M 20 study I showed you earlier which shows a difference, a significant difference, in potency. I have it on good 21

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22 authority, although I could not vouch for it myself, based 23 on what was in those letters to the editor and other 24 discussions that have taken place, that these two inhalers 25 are very close to being pharmaceutically equivalent.

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1 If that is true, that is what has led to the 2 consternation in that how could one be approved on a one-to-3 one basis and this one be approved in the U.K. on a two-to-4 one basis, two inhalations of CFC is equivalent to one 5 inhalation of the HFA.

[Slide.]

7 That leads me to the following question. That is
8 all based, by the way, on the fact that the dose-response
9 curve must be just so darned flat. That is what the letters
10 to the editor really addressed, that you really can't do
11 what the Baker Norton study did but there isn't,
12 necessarily, a good way to get around this problem.

I might just stop here at this point and say what everybody says, it is just really hard to deal with inhaled steroids so clinical studies may be not that useful.

16 I would like to now ask the question is it really 17 true that inhaled steroid dose-response curves are just that 18 flat.

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[Slide.]

What has got me originally thinking about this is what I will label here as the asthma clinician's paradox. That is, in clinical studies, multiple clinical studies, with hundreds of patients, it has been very difficult to show anything but a very flat--dose-response curves that are flat to nonexistent.

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1	On the other hand, clinicians think they see
2	inhaled dose-response relationships in the clinic every day
3	in individual patients. Both of these cannot be true. One
4	says there is no dose-response relationship. The other
5	says, at least in some patients, there is an important,
6	clinically important, dose-response relationship that we all
7	see.
8	[Slide.]
9	So the question is, which is allusion and which is
10	reality. I would like to make a modest proposal here, for
11	the remainder of my talk, as to what the answer to this may
12	be. I will start out with this quote: "Good judgement comes
13	from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement." I
14	think we have all experienced that from time to time.
15	"Furthermore, experience teaches you to recognize
16	a mistake when you have made it again."
17	[Slide.]
18	What I would like to propose to you here is the
19	that the typical inhaled corticosteroid study design which
20	has been used over and over again with various modifications
21	but the same basic theme, in dozens of studies, is a mistake
22	that we keep repeating over and over again.
23	The typical study, as most all of you will recall,
24	is a parallel group study lasting varying lengths of time
25	but at least for a month or two. The general approach is

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1 that you take baseline data in poorly controlled asthmatics 2 and then do something that none of us really do very often 3 as clinicians, is just place those poorly controlled 4 asthmatics on a inhaled steroid and wait for them to get 5 better of subsequent weeks, and then measure their response.

This is marked by very high variability in response, the very shallow dose-response curves that we have talked about and a tremendous reluctance to do crossover studies because of the prolonged treatment time potential carryover.

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[Slide.]

Let's take a little further look at just what it would take to do a good bioassay study using this kind of methodology. I am not going to go into detail at all here although, perhaps, Dr. Hauck and others would like me to as to what methodology we use to do sample size, statistical power and sample-size calculations.

18 For here, it is not a straightforward matter but 19 something that there have been some recent publications on and my biostatistitican, Dr. Singh Ho Hahn and I, have done 20 some work with. But, I will suffice it here to say that it 21 is not related simply to the variability of the response. 22 It is also related to the steepness of the dose-response 23 24 curve and, in fact, those two things do not function 25 independently. They function as a ratio.

The smaller that ratio, the more powerful and discriminative the study.

[Slide.]

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So we did some sample-size calculations with assumptions that we were going to try to demonstrate using two one-sided hypothesis testing, that a generic between 0.5 and 2.0 times as potent as the innovator, typical alpha and power level using a two-by-two bioassay study design, two doses of each preparation.

[Slide.]

Here is the S over B ratio that I talked about earlier. Sample size calculated--this is using the data from that 3M Busse study--looking like it would take in the neighborhood of a thousand patients to really fulfill that goal. This was an exceeding rigorous and difficult study to do. I don't know for sure where typical studies are, but they are probably--most other studies are up here someplace.

That is not a very practical number of patients to do, particularly if you are a generic company trying to get a product approved.

[Slide.]

Because of this problem, we launched into a pilot--well, actually, we did a number of pilot studies searching for the holy grail of a better outcome measure that would give us greater reproducibility. This was part of that

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1	series. It was a study that we did in collaboration with 3M
2	using their HFA preparation.
3	We did it as a crossover study and we justified
4	that in terms of dealing with carryover by the following, by
5	giving a prednisone burst at the beginning of the study to
6	essentially maximize carryover in patients, give everybody,
7	as near as we could, maximal steroid effect by maximally
8	improving their asthma.
9	That, in fact, models what clinicians do all the
10	time. If we see a patient who is in trouble with their
11	asthma, we generally give them a course of oral steroids and
12	then start them on their inhaled steroid to maintain that
13	control.
14	We then looked at the stability of asthma over the
15	subsequent three weeks, looked at virtually every outcome
16	measure, again, in search of that holy grail, that we could
17	think of expressed in every way we could think of for a
18	total of 58 different outcome variables searching for the
19	lowest S over B ratio.
_ 20	[Slide.]
21	What we found was that, in this model, some
22	outcomes were terrible. There are some that are even up
23	here further, but look at the computed sample size here over
24	S over B ratio. We are up in the thousands.
25 [°]	I had this great idea that if patients got up at

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4 a.m. routinely, set their alarm and did their peak flow meters, that that would model morning dipping and that would give us a good response. Not only did it not work, it got a lot of patients angry with me. That wasn't a very good idea.

Here, you can see maybe your other favorite outcome, and there are others on this list, that didn't work very-well. I would now like to zoom in, down on this corner down here.

[Slide.]

Computed sample size; now, we are dropping down to 11 100 or under. To my surprise, the best outcome measure was, 12 essentially, morning home spirometry. We had a portable 13 electric spirometer that gave us FEV 1, FEF 25, 75, as well 14 as peak flow. I am not sure that those differences are so 15 really important as the fact that it was upon-awakening 16 morning spirometry that turned out to give us the best 17 power. 18

But the remarkable thing is that it appears, in contrast to that Busse study I showed you earlier, you could achieve this sort of thing with 100 subjects or under.

[Slide.]

Now, I think, the most important issue with this. Here are those same points that I just showed you down here with the best outcome measures. Here are the same outcome

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measures using the same pilot data but now doing sample-size calculations for a parallel study, as if we had done this as a parallel study rather than a crossover study.

It become apparent to me that these data suggest, at least, that the problem with the traditional study that we have done--there is the Busse study right in the middle of it--of the outcome measures that turned out pretty good in a crossover study.

9 The real study is not the outcome measures. The 10 problem is the study design. It is a parallel versus a 11 crossover study design.

[Slide.]

We are not the only ones to have stumbled upon this although I think the implication has not been quite so clear. This is a study done by Soren Pedersen a few years ago looking at exercise-induced asthma in children, again, a small number of children, yet got a highly significant doseresponse relationship.

By the way, in that study I just showed you with those best outcome measures, the dose-response relationship is with only twelve subjects. It was less than 0.0001.

There is nothing new under the sun. It is not exactly a great revelation to Dr. Hauck that crossover studies are more powerful than parallel studies. That is old as the sun. So that is not exactly a revelation and yet

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I think what is a revelation is that, in no place does it seem to be more true than in dealing with inhaled-steroid dose-response relationships and comparison of preparations.

I think this may be the answer to this asthma 4 clinician's paradox that I showed you earlier. It may well 5 be that there are very real dose-response relationships in 6 individual patients, that we are not deluding ourselves when **7**. we think we see that. What these data suggest is that that 8 very real response, in at least some patients, gets lost in 9 a great deal of interpatient variability between asthmatics 10 which we, as clinicians, also, all know is there. 11

[Slide.]

So, in summary, the task has been to develop a 13 capable method of demonstrating in vivo bioequivalence for 14 The concept I have presented is to use a inhaled steroids. 15 clinical bioassay dose-axis comparison. The common wisdom 16 is that the dose-response curve is just too darned flat to 17 I am presenting an iconoclastic potential really do this. 18 alternative that the real problem may just be that you can't 19 do this if you are going to persist in doing parallel 20 studies. 21

[Slide.]

The solution may be to not say we can't do crossover studies because of carryover. For heaven's sake, most parallel studies have to deal with carryover because

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many of the subjects came into those studies already on inhaled corticosteroids. There is carryover there to begin with. So it is not a matter of getting rid of carryover sc you don't have to worry about it. It is a matter of how to control it.

We presented at least one method by starting each treatment period now with a wash-out but with a wash-in, with a burst of oral steroids to minimize the potential for carryover to be able to do these crossover studies.

10 This should allow accurate assessment of 11 bioequivalence if it really works with tens to hundreds 12 rather than thousands of patients. However, the proof of 13 the pudding is in the eating. This is just a pilot study.

There hasn't been a study that actually has accomplished this yet. You will have to wait for that, this is the commercial message, it is no great surprise that I continue to look for additional opportunities, collaborative opportunities, to address this issue.

Thanks for your attention.

DR. LEE: Thank you very much, Dr. Ahrens. I invite you to take the hot seat and maybe entertain some questions.

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DR. LEE: We now go into the discussion period.

Subcommittee Discussion

There are two major groups of questions to be addressed

following the two presentations, one on nasal aerosols and sprays and the other one on orally inhaled corticosteroids.

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In order to keep the momentum, let me propose that we take on the second group of questions first which is, "Clinical studies for local delivery of orally inhaled corticosteroids, ICS." These are two questions that the agency would like to get input on.

8 The first one is, "A number of approaches have 9 been proposed to assess bioequivalence of ICS." You have 10 heard some of those. The question is, "Are any of these 11 study designs proven to offer better discrimination in terms 12 of dose-response sensitivity?"

Here, we will look to the clinician colleagues onthe committee to guide us.

DR. LI: I will make a comment. I appreciate the 15 discussion that we have had so far. I think that one of the 16 issues with the dose-response for inhaled corticosteroids 17 has to do with the usual doses at which we conduct our 18 studies and the usual doses that we use in clinical 19 Those doses tend to be on the high end where we practice. 20 get a maximal or a near maximal benefit. That may be 21 22 clinically appropriate.

But I think that the differences between preparations or formulations may be more apparent at the lower end of the scale. So one of the suggestions that I

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1 have heard that makes some sense is when conducting a dose-2 response study to use lower than usual doses to see if 3 differences can be apparent at the lower doses rather than 4 at usual doses.

DR. SZEFLER: This is an area Richard and I and a number of people have discussed for a number of years. The markers that seem to be attractive are exercise-induced asthma, exhaled nitric oxide and then I would toss in a third one which would be bronchodilator reversibility.

We are in a process now with the Asthma Clinical Research Network of testing these in kind of a different model. It is a little bit different than what Richard proposed and we are trying to match up efficacy measures with levels of cortisol suppression because, I think as you pointed out earlier, you could do one measure and compare it to another.

We kind of took the position of trying to assess 17 each of the individual steroids for levels of cortisol 18 suppression and then take those doses for given levels of 19 cortisol suppression and look at efficacy. We are now kind 20 of ending the third phase of that trial and we will have 21 some answers on that. But at least looking at the 22 literature, the things that seem to be appealing are the 23 study that Richard mentioned in terms of exercise-induced 24 25 asthma.

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Exhaled nitric oxide, there are a few studies on that, but people don't look at that as kind of a--it is not acceptable yet as a surrogate marker of inflammation. It is a nice bioassay, maybe.

The third one that I am kind of intrigued with looking at that seems to be surfacing as a potential marker of response is beta-agonist reversibility. So there are three that I think I would look at. The other ones, like FEV 1 and peak flow, the changes appear to be small.

John Toogood, early on, had identified that very low doses can achieve your maximal effect but you need higher doses to get more at the exercise-induced areas.

If you look at other levels of reactivity like methacholine and histamine, you just can't differentiate changes. That is probably because they are very slowly reversible.

DR. AHRENS: The fact that, in what I just said here, I emphasized the basic study design, parallel versus crossover studies, doesn't diminish the importance of selecting the right patients and choosing the right outcome. In terms of the issue that was just brought up about patients being often at the top of the dose-response curve in typically clinically used doses.

For many patients, that is clearly true, even at the very lowest dose. There are certain patients that it

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takes almost--the biggest step in the dose-response curve goes from nothing to something. Once you get to that, anyplace else you go in the dose-response curve doesn't have much effect.

For those patients, probably the dose-response 5 curve is very flat and the dose probably doesn't make a big 6 difference. A broad difference in dose delivered probably 7 wouldn't hurt those patients. But there are other patients 8 where the dose-response curve really is steeper. For sake 9 of time, I didn't go into the details for this pilot study, 10 for example, what patients we selected. But they clearly 11 were steroid-dependent patients in the sense that they were 12 not well-controlled unless they were on substantial doses of 13 inhaled steroids. 14

There are clues in other studies that have been done that those patients are not a tiny minority, though, that there is a substantial percentage of those patients around. It is those patients we need to protect by having properly done bioequivalence studies and, therefore, it is those patients who really ought to be the subjects for those studies.

22 So it isn't a matter of--what you said, James, I 23 think is correct that, for some patients, even at typical 24 clinical doses, they are at the top of the dose-response 25 relationship. But I don't think it is true for all subjects

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and we ought to be able to develop entrance criteria to studies to identify those patients during run-in periods.

DR. SZEFLER: There is some appeal, in terms of your model from the ethics standpoint and the availability. We try to recruit those patients and they are a challenge to find because now of the extensive use of inhaled steroids and also because of some of the problems we run into with institutional review boards in terms of delaying treatment and observation period.

10 So the attractiveness of your model is that you 11 can treat that right away and you can even take patients who 12 are in inhaled steroids because you are escalating the 13 treatment and then you are withdrawing and watching 14 carefully. So there are some ethical and, also, some 15 availability in terms of numbers of patients to look at that 16 offer some attractiveness in terms of your model.

DR. AHRENS: Stanley, you brought up the issue of what outcome measures to choose. I think that is also an important issue, that there are some outcome measures that are clearly much less discriminative than others.

For what it is worth, it was only a small pilot study, but bronchodilator reversibility was one of the things that we looked at in the study and it didn't come out very well. I was amazed that one of the simplest things, just doing morning peak flows, is what turned out to be as

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discriminative as anything. We didn't do exercise in the study. It is certainly more cumbersome to do, but, based on Pedersen's data, that also is right if you use his data to do the same sample-sized calculations. It is right in there with the morning spirometry, the peak flows that we looked at.

7 It is not a lot better, but it is not worse 8 either. I think it is an alternative kind of model.

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9 DR. SZEFLER: In our studies, we were really 10 trying to answer the question, are steroids different. I 11 think the question we have facing us today is, given a 12 steroid with a different delivery device, is it equivalent. 13 So it is kind of the opposite end of the spectrum.

So then you get into setting the goal posts with the model in terms of what is acceptable, tight goal posts or wide goal posts and everybody can kick a field goal.

I quess I would respond to that by DR. AHRENS: 17 saying the handling of those two situations is slightly 18 clinically different but not that much. In one, you want to 19 make sure, based on two one-sided hypothesis testing, that 20 the confidence intervals are inside the goal posts. For the 21 other, you don't have goals posts. You just want to know 22 what the truth is. If something is three times a potent, 23 you want to know that but there, again, you need to have the 24 same kind of confidence limits. 25

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If you wanted to know between half and twice as potent in terms of proving bioequivalence, if something is three times as potent, you really want to know, okay, my estimate is three times. Is it 1.5 to 6.0 or where? You want to narrow the confidence interval on that estimate, wherever it is, to the point where it is clinically useful and not tenfold or more wide that isn't clinically useful.

B DR. LEE: Let me interject here and ask the 9 question, is there any discriminatory study design known 10 today?

Based on what I have presented here, DR. AHRENS: 11 It should be obvious my opinion is, in terms of things that 12 have been done and proven and used in this kind of --13 validated by having actually been used and been successful, 14 What I have been holding out here is that I think there no. 15 may be some promise looking at things a bit differently than 16 in the past. 17

But that still may be entirely doable. But it has not been done yet, to the best of my knowledge, in a way that would be truly usable for bioequivalence.

DR. LEE: So would question B2 be a logical follow up to that, looking for surrogate markers that might be sufficiently sensitive?

DR. AHRENS: As I think I was just saying, my opinion to that is that that is an important thing to do

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1	but, in itself, insufficient. We did a grand total of, I
2	believe it was six pilot studies searching for that holy
3	grail of what is the best cutcome measure to make this
4	problem go away. It was in the sixth study, the sixth pilot
5	study, that we finally came around to the idea that the
6	problem really may not be the marker. It is the basics of
7	the study design.
8	. That is important, but I think you are going to
9	have to come up with a way to do a crossover study or you
10	are never going to be able to use this in a bioequivalence
11	kind of approach, in a bioassay kind of approach, like was
12	done with albuterol, and apply that to inhaled steroids.
13	You can decide that you don't really want to do
14	that, that it is more trouble than it is worth. But if you
15	want to do it, then I think that is what it is going to
16	take.
17	DR. LEE: Other points or opinions? Could it be
18	because we don't understand the disease stage well enough?
19	DR. AHRENS: Stanley, do you want to respond to
20	that?
21	DR. SZEFLER: I think we understand its
22	manifestation. We don't understand totally its etiology.
23	But I think the variability is a problem. We would like to
24	think it is not product related and so we trust that the
25	products that we are working with would limit that

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variability. But I think it is the disease variability that makes it statistically hard to sort out.

An asthmatic is not an asthmatic is DR. AHRENS: 3 not an asthmatic even if you bring them into the study like 4 is often done within the same FEV1. Their FEV1 is between 5 50 and 70 percent of predicted, or whatever the criteria 6 are. You still, even though you do that, get some very 7. different people in terms of their characteristics of their 8 asthma and what apparently is the case in terms of their 9 responsiveness of inhaled steroids in that kind of study. 10

DR. LEE: Thank you.

Lester?

DR. HARRISON: We certainly support the crossover study design as well. It is very appealing to us and, based on our knowledge with BDP, it seems the way to go. We would be very encouraged if you would--somebody would--actually do the real definitive study and prove the point.

We were involved in the pilot study but that needs to be taken the next step. It did seem like it has the potential to actually discriminate.

DR. LEE: Very good. Wally, do you have the information you need?

DR. ADAMS: Yes. I think that is helpful. DR. LEE: Okay; great. Let's move on and talk about question A1 and A2 which are similar to the ICS

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situation. You may recall Dr. Roman's presentation about the three models and the same question was posed to see whether or not is it feasible to demonstrate a dose response for locally acting drugs using any one of these designs.

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Let me see what the committee has to say.

From what I have seen so far, and it is DR. BEHL: 6 for question B1, B2 questions also on the steroids, the 7 dynamics of locally acting compounds in the nose and in the 8 lung are such that I don't see how one could replace the 9 need of, if not a full-scale clinical trial, then at least a 10 bridging clinical trial to show that, after showing all the 11 pharmaceutical equivalence of the product and other 12 equivalence that can be easily shown, that the results of 13 therapeutically equivalent. 14

I don't see what we know today, in terms of valid approaches which can be used in lieu of, if not a fullscale, then a bridging clinical trial.

18 DR. LEE: Any opinion? Dr. Roman, you would like 19 to respond?

DR. ROMAN: Yes. I agree, actually, that the crossover is a much better design in terms of controlling some of the variability. However, I cannot, at the moment, imagine any crossover design for nasal-allergy studies which are very much depending on season and shortness of it, if you wish.

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Of course, the fact that the endpoint measurement is not so reliable as the pulmonary-function test, the

rhinomometries. I don't know if it is in infancy or agony. I am not quite sure which phase of this we are observing, but it is not a very reliable method so far.

So I would be very hard-pressed to come with a 6 design which will be as elegant and interesting as Dr. 7 Another thing if, if I may ask and think here, will 8 Ahrens. this--you see, the problem is that most of the reference 9 drugs do not show much of the dose response in their full 10 development programs. 11

So the companies will have to do the reference-12 drug study tests as well as the dose responses in addition 13 to the tested drugs. 14

DR. DALBY: In the hierarchy of acceptable 15 testing, you have the clinical test and, if that is found to 16 be nondiscriminating, you drop down to the in vitro tests. 17 It seems to me, although, again, it is not, perhaps, a 18 population thought that the intermediate ground is the 19 scintigraphic study of deposition which at least 20 incorporates the anatomy of the nose, and it is not such a 21 big stretch, in my opinion, to go from if the drug is 22 depositing equivalently in two formulations, that it will 23 act equivalent and it is not necessary to fall straight down 24 to the in vitro tests. 25

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I fully accept the difficulty of validating the labeling technique, but, by the same token, if we are going to develop criteria that can find two products to be bioequivalent, as Andy said, that is no different than finding an innovator product to be the same as the labeled innovative product.

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So, putting those things together and accepting that a nasal solution is probably the easiest type of dosage form to reliably radiolabel with a deposition marker, it would seem to me at least appropriate to consider scintigraphy as a measure of equivalence.

DR. BEHL: It might be a case of trying to prove the impossible. If the original innovator product in two different dose strengths was approved, of course, there is no burden on their part to show the equivalence or a good inherent dose response, for example, that has just been on the market.

18 If they go back and do them again, and prove the 19 dose response and prove that a 2-mg dose is better than a 1-20 mg dose on the market, they might fail in doing that now. 21 It depends on what the suggestion is how we are going to 22 show the bioequivalence of the same dose but different 23 formulations, or same formulations and maybe a different 24 company.

Maybe we are asking to do something that is not

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doable.

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DR. MacGREGOR: I guess I have a couple of comments on what you said and that is to get a nasal product on the market, you had to run it against placebo. We all know that the placebo response is 35 percent, is a typical number. The response of the active drug is typically 45 or 50 percent.

So that is why you needed 400, 600, patients. So there is a problem right there, if you had a three-way study, parallel-group study, where you had placebo, the innovator and the test, I guess what you are worried about is that you ended up with going in the opposite direction from the placebo or that you are just the same as the placebo.

But it took a lot to get there so that is where I see there is a problem studying. As far as your comment about solutions, it is my understanding, in reading the guidance, that solution formulations, there is no request for bioequivalence of solutions. There is a request for suspensions for multiphase products but not for a solution.

I have looked as hard as possible to see why you would need a study for bioequivalence of a solution being an innovator with a solution on the market, I am asked to look at that and say, come up with a reason why someone has to do bioequivalence, and I can't. Clinically, I just don't see--

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once you show you have the same solution and the same droplet size and plume pattern met, I don't see why there is a need for a clinical trial.

I agree with the guidance from that point of view. As far as a suspension, then you have other things going 5 The problem is, in the clinical trial, it took 600 about. 6 patients to show that difference from 35 to, say, 45 or 50. 7 That is where I look for more innovation in the design. Ι 8 think we are too often going back to what it took to get the 9 innovator on the market. 10

That is why I am interesting in seeing alternatives where we do crossovers or something along that line, one nostril for this one, one nostril for that, and go in and look for inflammation. What is there that we can do?

I am just concerned that, in the drop-DR. DALBY: 15 down from a clinical study to the in vitro testing, that it 16 is possible to design tests that are so discriminating but 17 completely irrelevant that you can falsely keep an 18 appropriate product from the market. 19

I just think that scintigraphy in DR. MacGREGOR: 20 a multiphase product, having done that in the past, is one 21 of the most difficult things, even going back and making--in 22 the case of the drug that we had, we made a hot bromine into 23 the molecule so that we could study it. I remember that, 24 because it was a multiphase system, it was just so difficult 25

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to get it to be identical to what was on the manufacturing line, because you are only making ten or fifteen of these devices, it is technologically -- if we walked in here, there would be so many questions about the data that we would lose sight of any clinical benefit that we had seen from it.

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DR. HAUCK: I just wanted to take the discussion back to a little bit of basics again. A key, really a requirement, of anything to show bioequivalence is that it If you have a test that comes be able to show differences. back and says 7 all the time, then everything is equivalent and it is real easy to show equivalence.

So I kind of had problems when we were hearing Dr. Roman earlier, the note I wrote down is, "Why are we doing these?" They didn't seem like they are going to discriminate against anything so, showing equivalence out of at least the parallel-design clinical studies that she was 16 discussing, don't seem terribly relevant. 17

I would much rather be, and now back to Dr. 18 Dalby's comments -- I would much rather be in the overly 19 discriminating case because that is a goalpost question. 20 You just don't have to set a tight goalpost if it is 21 discriminating things that -- if something is very tightly 22 discriminating, you just set a wider goalpost. But you have 23 to have the discrimination or you just can't do equivalence 24 25 at all.

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	1	Where that puts your labeling, that I can't help
	2	you with.
	3	DR. LEE: It seems to me, based on what I have
	4	heard, it is not feasible to demonstrate dose response for a
	5	locally acting drug; is that correct?
	6	DR. HAUCK: That's what I hear.
	7	DR. LEE: At the present time. And, if not, what
	8	other approaches may we rely upon. I don't think we have
	9	the answer.
1	LO	DR. HAUCK: Wait a minute. That sounded like too
1	11	general a statement. I mean, it is an issue of the type of
1	12	study and the type of drug. We just saw a dose-response
	13	study.
1	14	DR. LEE: That is for nasally acting drugs.
1	15	DR. HAUCK: He said locally acting.
	16	DR. LEE: I'm sorry; for locally acting nasal
	17	drugs.
	18	DR. HAUCK: Is that a true statement for all
· · · · · ·	19	types, antihistamines as well, steroids? I just don't know,
	20	but I raise that question.
	21	DR. AHRENS: I am tempted to say it is true, but I
· · · · ·	22	don't really know for sure.
	23	DR. BEHL: From the dynamics of how they act and
	24	the mechanics of what has to happen for them to show the
en in en	25	effect, I would say that that statement, even though not

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shown for all compounds, is probably very close to be true. 1 I think back to the old question again; DR. LEE: 2 we need more data. 3 I think it is hard for us to say that DR. HAUCK: 4 such a thing can't exist. It is sort of the absence of data 5 is not the data for its absence, or something. Other than 6 saying we have not been shown it today. 7 I guess a more prudent way to say it is DR. LEE: 8 that we need to explore this further. 9 DR. DALBY: One thing I think would be worth 10 considering is, since, if I understand Harmut's presentation 11 correctly, for every known steroid that is now on the 12 market, it is possible to detect it in plasma. I wasn't 13 sure what his method was. If you have an equivalent plasma 14 time-profile, must that have resulted from an equivalent 15 deposition and an equivalent local concentration? 16 Could we not extrapolate that to equivalency 17 because pharmacokinetic profiling is the number-one 18 acceptable criteria that the age says it prefers. 19 I think, along the same lines, Richard, 20 DR. LEE: is basically discomfort about the scintigraphy studies is 21 that we are not certain what has been deposited is available 22 and, therefore, maybe some sort of sophisticated techniques 23 like receptor imaging is the way to go. 24

> It would seem to me, though, in DR. AHRENS:

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reference to that, that we are in a bit different ball game here than with inhaled drugs intended to go to the lung. Inhaled drugs intended to go to the lung, there can be some real questions about aerosol particle behavior and where they wind up in the lungs.

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While there may be some of the same issues about 6 distribution in the nose, it has got to be a lot less 7 problematic in terms of knowing the total percentage of what 8 you spray in nose that winds up staying there. Maybe that 9 is the kind of thing--that could easily be done with 10 scintigraphy or, perhaps, other methodologies, so there is a 11 while issue about delivering something that is a long 12 distance away with chances for particles to misbehave versus 13 spraying it essentially directly on a topical surface. 14

15 So it seems to me that, if that is true, then it 16 may be that you could just go plasma pharmacokinetics for a 17 drug that is actively absorbed from the nose. If the time 18 profile is the same, and perhaps you could maybe combine it 19 with a charcoal block so you knew if it is orally absorbable 20 drug.

Therefore, what went in, must have gone in through the nose. Wouldn't that reflect the dissolution-time profile which is really the issue, isn't it? Isn't that the reason that solutions, you wouldn't need to do all this, but, suspensions, yes? It is because of the issue of the

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dissolution	profile	of	the	particles.
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I think, for most nasal products, that DR. DALBY: criterion is met. You generally see, from an aqueous nasal spray, a very small percentage getting through into the lung, and there is support for that. So I think that it is possible that it as least worth investigating.

Dr. Szefler, the last word? 7 DR. LEE: I was just going to say you could DR. SZEFLER: 8 combine this two-dose analysis in kind of a different way. 9 I think each drug has to be defined by a lowest effective 10 dose and a maximal safe dose, but you kind of work with 11 I don't know the nasal literature ranges with these drugs. 12 as well as I know the inhaled steroid literature, but it 13 would seem to me that you would have to define that your 14 lowest dose would be equivalent in terms of efficacy with 15 your lowest dose of the reference product, and that your 16 highest dose should not be any more toxic in terms of 17 systemic measures, whether you use blood levels or cortisol 18 suppression than your highest labeled dose of your reference 19 20 product.

So if you took those two and kind of set your 21 standards in terms of looking at comparative efficacy at the 22 low range, comparative systemic effect at the high range, 23 then you would kind of be able to pinpoint where the product 24 fits in in terms of equivalency, I think.

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DR. DALBY: I just think it is important not to mix up a safety study with an equivalency study although we sometimes derive safety inferences from an equivalence study.

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There is one more question to be DR. LEE: addressed, and that question might even be equally challenging which is, what we have talked about so far is 7 based on the so-called seasonal allergic rhinitis. "How 8 much can bioequivalence, established based on that endpoint, Q, assure bioequivalence for other indications such as 10 recurrence of nasal polyps or other non-SAR conditions?" 11 This is question A2. 12

Wally, is that your territory?

The concern here is that, in our Yes. DR. ADAMS: 14 draft nasal BA/BE guidance, we have recommended that the 15 studies to document bioequivalence use the seasonal allergic 16 rhinitis model for all of the drugs, whether it be 17 antihistamine or cortical steroids or anticholinergic. 18

The question that we are asking here is is there 19 any reason to suspect that bioequivalence based upon the SAR 20 model does not establish bioequivalence for perennial 21 allergic rhinitis or for nasal polyps for the one drug, 22 beclomethasone, for which nasal polyps is an indication. 23

Is that clear to the committee members? DR. LEE: 24 Richard, do you want to take this on? 25

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1	DR. AHRENS: I think we are all hesitating to
2	answer because any answer we give is likely to be right out
3	of the air. We have been saying all day we need more data,
4	but, in this area, I know of no correlations between those
5	two. If you went Richard's route with a drug that was well-
6	absorbed and you showed similar time plasma profiles that
7	must have to do with a similar dissolution pattern in the
8	nose, and, therefore, absorption across that mucosa, you
9	could be reasonably comfortable in that setting that, if
10	they behave the same, they would dissolve the same, and they
11	probably would act the same. It is the same compound.
12	DR. LEE: You can argue that the dose requirements
1887 - 18 Mai 13	will be different.
14	DR. AHRENS: But the dose requirement will be
15	different for both preparations. So the issue is
16	bioequivalence between the two.
17	DR. LEE: Right.
18	DR. AHRENS: I think that is all you can do is
19	kind of reason it out of how it might be. But I know of no
20	way to really nail it down.
21	DR. DALBY: If you don't like it for the simple
22	case, you definitely wouldn't like it for this more
23	complicated case.
24	DR. ADAMS: Dick, are you suggesting, then, a
25	slightly different question, that if you have in vitro data
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and PK data for nasal drug products that that would assure bioequivalence?

DR. AHRENS: Assuming that that PK data was 3 discriminatory, we all know that there are some nasally 4 deposited products which are absorbed very little into the 5 systemic circulation that, obviously, isn't going to work 6 very well for those. For other products, where there is 7 substantial absorption from the nose and that is measurable 8 and is discriminative, I, personally--I haven't spent a lot 9 of time thinking about it, but, at least where I am sitting 10 here now, to me, that sounds reasonable. It is a very 11 different ball game, I think, from drugs that are inhaled 12 into the lung. 13

DR. ADAMS: And this would be a case where, with charcoal block, you could prevent the drug coming in from the GI tract or for a drug with low oral bioavailability.

DR. SZEFLER: A quick comment. I think you could reverse the question by asking does that disease pathology change the toxicity of the drug or the dynamics of the delivery. I am not aware of any studies that would suggest that the absorption is different in terms of allergic rhinitis versus nonallergic rhinitis or polyps.

With polyps, it could be more but I don't know of any data that suggests that it is changed in any way. So I think you have to look at the question the reverse way, too,

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in terms of --

My question to Wally is, given that the DR. BEHL: 2 PK can show that, then it is something very difficult to 3 show for even nasal products. The in vitro pharmaceutical 4 equivalence, for example, in my opinion is not sufficient to 5 show the therapeutic equivalence of locally acting compounds 6 intranasally. Having talked to a lot of others over the 7 years, I don't see how we can escape the need to do at least 8 a small bridging clinical trial to show the therapeutic 9 equivalence along with a need to show other equivalence that 10 can be shown very easily. 11

DR. DALBY: I guess I would turn the question around and ask what phenomenon do you think could get in the way of a finding that if you saw the same plasm concentration time profile, you would not have had the same profile of drug deposition and absorption in the nose.

DR. BEHL: One is the way a compound would travel, through ciliary movement in the nasal tissue, the surface area to cover from the spray, for example. The spray patterns become very important. By changing them, you could maybe still get the same PK information or the same PK data, but not the same coverage of the same surface in the nose.

The rate of ciliary currents in the back of the throat may be different from formasin(?) formation, may not show much of a difference in the absorption depending on how

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254 it is deposited in the nose; a number of factors. If we 1 have particles in the formulation, it makes it more 2 difficult. 3 [Slide.] 4 I think I need to move on. Obviously, Wally has 5 posed some very interesting questions which require some 6 educated guesses. I think that is the best that we can Ż. offer. 8 We now move into the final session of today 9 dealing with PK and PD for systemic exposure of locally 10 acting drugs. Dr. Uppoor from the agency is going to 11 provide us with the FDA practices. 12 PK and PD Studies for Systemic Exposure 13 of Locally Acting Drugs 14 Current FDA PK Practices 15 DR. UPPOOR: Good afternoon, everyone. 16 [Slide.] 17 We have heard from Dr. Derendorf as to some of the 18 systemic PK studies that are done and some of the reasons --19 what we can rely on and what we cannot. Let me go through 20 my presentation and I will talk about the current FDA 21 practices primarily for new oral inhalation and nasal 22 aerosol products. 23 During the course, I will actually point out the 24 25 level of systemic exposure.

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MILLER REPORTING COMPANY, INC. 507 C Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 [Slide.]

During my presentation today, I will be dealing 2 with the general pharmacokinetics and bioequivalence studies 3 that are needed for new molecular entities at the same time 4 they are developed as new inhalation or nasal-spray 5 products; as we have heard this morning from Dr. Adams, the 6 different steps or different approaches we can use to 7 generally assess bioavailability and bioequivalence; and 8 then go through the methods and some of the issues. Some of 9 these have been discussed in the previous discussion as 10 well. 11 Finally, I will go through something that we also 12

Finally, I will go through something that we also want to get your input on, is the role of systemic pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies not only for a generic product--that comes in--but even when product changes are made for an innovative product. We want to hear that from you.

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[Slide.]

For a new molecular entity, from a

20 pharmacokinetics and biopharmaceutics perspective, we want 21 to know the fate of the drug. Obviously, we want to know 22 the mass-balance studies. We want to know the single dose, 23 the multiple dose pharmacokinetics. We would like to know 24 the absolute bioavailability and relative bioavailability of 25 the drug.

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Dose proportionality is one of the key issues. we have been deliberating all day, bioequivalence studies made between the product that was tested in the clinical trials versus what is to be marketed.

[Slide.]

From a clinical pharmacological perspective, of course we would like to know what the pharmacokinetics are in the target population, especially if there are differences in delivery in healthy volunteers versus the target population.

Additional studies that are necessary to 11 understand and label the drug; the age, gender and race 12 13 effects; of course, special populations, what would happen in the renal- and hepatic-impairment patients. One of the 14 15 things which is, of course, very important is to know what 16 kinds of drug interactions might be expected, so from a 17 pharmacokinetics perspective, we would like to see appropriate drug-interaction studies conducted. 18

In addition, we would also like to see
pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic correlations established
wherever possible. For inhalation and nasal products
intended for local action, the pharmacodynamics that I am
going to focus on and talk about are from a systemic safety
perspective.

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So, as we have discussed, we know bioavailability 1 is an important factor, but from a product-quality 2 perspective as well as from a clinical pharmacology 3 perspective to understand the in vivo characteristics of the 4 drugs. However, with all the discussion, we still do not 5 believe that in vitro testing alone is sufficient for all 6 kinds of drug products. There may be some cases where in 7 vitro testing is sufficient. 8

[Slide.]

Knowing the sensitivity and accuracy of the
pharmacokinetic data, the CFR outlines clearly the different
approaches that can be used for bioavailability and
bioequivalence. Pharmacokinetic studies are, obviously,
preferred. However, there are issues with the products
intended for local delivery.

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[Slide.]

I won't really go into detail today because Dr.
Derendorf talked about why we cannot rely solely on
pharmacokinetics, systemic plasma concentrations, for
bioequivalence and bioavailability purposes.

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.. [Slide.]

Because systemic-exposure data helps characterize the systemic safety for these locally acting drug products, and to address the local delivery and efficacy issues.

At this point, we definitely request that clinical

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[Slide.]

So, recapping, for a locally acting, orally inhaled drug product is what I am focussing on now, but even 4 for an inhaled product, the general, conventional clinical 5 pharmacology and biopharmaceutic studies are needed. If it 6 is not a totally new drug, from the new product, we request 7 single dose, multiple dose, dose proportionality and 8 relative bioavailability as well, where as appropriate, and 9 PK/PD studies. 10

Generally, pharmacokinetic studies are done in healthy volunteers. However, we have been sensitized with several of the new dosage forms that are being developed. These studies may be needed in the appropriate target patient population if the drug delivery is expected to be different.

[Slide.]

The two aspects that we have been touching upon a 18 couple of times today are--the first one is the inhalation 19 pharmacokinetics with the charcoal block. We really do not 20 require that this study be done. However, I think that it 21 does have merits that can be useful in the drug-development 22 perspective. 23

It is helpful in comparing relative dose delivery to the lung from different formulations. The concern that I

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have is that it really does not address the delivery to the relevant biospace. It also doesn't really point out what is the oropharyngeal deposition.

[Slide.]

Similarly, with the gamma scintigraphy studies, we have been seeing a lot of activity in this area. It is very useful. However, again, as concerns were expressed today, we have concerns about possible lab-to-lab variation. Obviously, the labeled drugs may have different aerodynamic characteristics or even a modification to the original product.

There is significant activity in terms of standardization of these tests, but still, at this point, we are not comfortable to use it from a regulatory perspective. [Slide.]

So for new oral inhalation, and probably it could 16 even apply to the nasal products, in addition to the 17 pharmacokinetic studies, we do require clinical studies for 18 efficacy and safety. Some of the pharmacokinetic data can 19 be acquired through population pharmacokinetic and 20 pharmacodynamic studies. One other thing that I would like 21 to point out is when a specific topical claim is sought for 22 that drug and drug product, the special topical versus 23 systemic-effect studies may be necessary. 24

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Knowing this three-pronged approach of using the 1 in vitro data, and the in vivo data from efficacy as well as 2 pharmacokinetics or systemic pharmacodynamic data, I want to 3 actually discuss a little bit on where we might be able to 4 use the systemic pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic data, 5 especially for new drug products. When minor changes are 6 made to a well-characterized product, in vitro data as well 7 as systemic PK/PD may sufficient in those cases. 8

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9 However, when major changes are made to the 10 product, either to the formulation or to the device, 11 additional clinical data is necessary in those cases and, at 12 this point, it has been a case-by-case scenario and it is a 13 consultation with the division. We would really like your 14 help to clarify some of these and where the comfort factor 15 lies.

We also know the pharmacokinetic studies are recommended. But other pharmacokinetics data needs to be collected when a product is being changed or, for example, from a CFC to a non-CFC-based inhalation or nasal-dosage form. We do our guidance points-to-consider document that requests pharmacokinetic studies.

So I think, in summary, we have been talking about use of pharmacokinetic studies all along. It is a sensitive approach. There are some restrictions on how we can use this for a locally acting drug product. However, the

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sensitive assays that are being developed, we do have an ability to measure or detect plasma concentrations after oral inhalation in nasal products although we do have some cases where we are still struggling with the measurement of these plasma concentrations, or detecting and quantifying these concentrations.

So I would actually say that we do require that 7 pharmacokinetic-based bioavailability studies be conducted, 8 both to understand from a clinical pharmacology perspective 9 as well as the product-quality perspective. However, for 10 orally inhaled and nasal drug products intended for local 11 action, it is multiple aspects that have to be address. 12 Bioavailability and bioequivalence cannot be solely 13 addressed based on pharmacokinetics. 14

But, because of the accuracy and, wherever possible, we say pharmacokinetic studies are the first choice to characterize the systemic exposure. However, that alone is not sufficient. You need additional pharmacodynamic data from a safety perspective as well as

DR. LEE: Thank you very much.

20 clinical efficacy data where appropriate.

Thank you.

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24 only have twenty minutes.

Industry View

Dr. Harrison, you have the last words, but you

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ener in de la composición de la compos Composición de la composición de la comp	DR. HARRISON: Good afternoon. I want to thank
2	you for allowing me to be the last presenter.
3	[Slide.]
4	My topic is PK and PD studies for systemic
5	exposure of locally acting drugs. I am giving an industry
6	viewpoint.
7	[Slide.]
8	The value of PK for OINDP is that it measures
9	systemic absorption or systemic exposure. Both terms are
10	used in the guidance. I look at them as interchangeable.
11	Really, what they are doing is measuring systemic safety.
12	PK is an established bioequivalence metric. It can be
1977 - See Jaar Jacob 13	standardized. It can be validated. It is discriminating.
14	So certainly it has an awful lot of pluses for it.
15	[Slide.]
16	There are some concerns, however, with PK that
17	were raised. One is the low doses that are given nasally
18	and by inhalation, what limitations that imposes. The assay
19	lower limit of quantitation; there is quite a bit of
20	variability that is encountered in PK studies for the nose.
21	There could be draining of excess dose so that you really
22	don't get a good dose response. And, for oral inhalation,
23	the dosing technique is quite critical.
24	[Slide.]
25	What I want to do is address those concerns up

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front. The first one is low doses. That really is not so 1 important anymore. The bottom line is can you quantitate. 2 With the new advances in analytical techniques, you can 3 usually do it. Low dose is not a big issue, I think, 4 especially when you have a therapeutic dose range, as has 5 been proposed in the new guidance -- the nasal guidance, that 6 is--you can go, say, one puff, two puffs or even up to four 7 8 puffs. Whatever is recommended in the dosing recommendations, it is fair game to use in the PK study. 9 10 That also will help in analytical sensitivity. 1.1

So that gives you a lot more dose options than doing a PK study. To me, that is a good idea. The nasal route, you may be limited by drainage on how much you can give but, again, there is sensitivity there even for that. [Slide.]

Looking at the assay lower limit of quantitation, with LC mass spec/mass spec, now, you have got tremendous capabilities to go into the peak of gram per ml range. In many cases, you can get down to about 10 to 20.

What I have listed there are commercial assays that are actually available. Say, if you were a generic firm, you could find those assays available right now. For BDP that is important because it has got a 17 monoproprionate metabolite that is really the primary material in plasma and it is the most active and there are

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assays for that as well as BDP.

So you can do a good kinetic analysis of BDP as well. Again, because the equipment is so pervasive, you could get an analytical lab to help you out with whatever assay you wanted, I believe. So that is not a big issue anymore, either.

[Slide.]

8 Variability is a concern. There is large 9 intersubject variability. There is large intrasubject 10 variability. There is also variability with the dosing 11 technique. That needs to be addressed.

[Slide.]

This is just a slide showing, in one of the treatments given nasal formoterol, perhaps an example of a beta agonist, the variability you are seeing here with about an N of 27 is roughly on the order of about 40 or so percent. That is fairly typical. It is also, say, typical of a topical product or a variable oral product and it is something that would could live with.

20 DR. HAUCK: Here, with a N of 12, the variability 21 is a little bit higher. This is nasal triamcinolone. This 22 variation, by the way, was somewhat similar to what was 23 presented earlier by Dr. Derendorf or nasal fluticasone.

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[Slide.]

Here, budesonide. Again, very similar. These are

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standard errors but, again, it is coming out to be 40 to 50 percent variability that you are encountering in plasma levels.

[Slide.]

This is oral fluticasone. Again, you can see the range that you get in the plasma levels in these twelve individuals. So they vary broadly, but the curve pretty much is established by the mean. It is something I think that we can live with. We can reduce variability. There are various possibilities.

11 Replicate study designs is an interesting possibility that I have not seen anybody, at least approach in the literature. It is something that could be 13 14 investigated.

[Slide.]

16 What people have looked at, what we have looked 17 at, is increasing the subject number. With the nasal route, 18 you may need to reduce the dose.

19 What we have looked at for oral inhalation is 20 training the individuals to use proper technique. A 21 criticism there; it is not the real world and there are 22 actually even little computer machines that could teach a 23 person exactly how to inhale the product properly. 24 Certainly, we have used that in the past and with good 25 results as well.

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So what are the limitations of, then, doing pharmacokinetics? There really is no correlation with efficacy right now. That has been seen. I will show you some examples of that for the corticosteroids. And it does represent only a fraction of the dose, usually less than 30 percent.

As we talked about for nasal, it could be just a 9 few percent. Again, if you compare the nasal PK, you may be 10 working hard to get equivalence of an extremely small part 11 of the real dose and what is being positive in the nose, 12 where your efficacy is, may be completely different than 13 what you are focussing on.

Again, there are even concerns with the fineparticle fraction. That is debatable. What are the right ranges? So there is still some confusion there. That is, again, a limitation of how you interpret it.

Really, when you look at it, PK is the summary 18 19 parameter. It represents absorption through many different 20 routes; the mouth, the GI tract and, on first pass, going to the liver, the lungs. Actually, the appearances really have 21 22 different rates into the blood. We have seen some 23 sensitivities there. In terms of depending on how much goes in the mouth versus the lungs, you actually can get some 24 25 confusion in your datasets.

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[Slide.]

2	Here is an example of what I want to get at now is
3	that there is no good relationship between efficacy and
4	blood levels. This is a study with fluticasone given
5	nasally. C1 represents the concentration at one hour and
6	the symptom scare represents your efficacy.
7	What you see here is that, for the oral products
. 8	and the placebo, you saw no difference in the symptom score
9	but the nasal administration, you did whereas, in the blood
10	levels, you had detectable levels only orally but not
11	nasally. So, again, they were separated. Blood levels were
12	seen orally. Efficacy was only seen nasally.
13	[Slide.]
14	The same thing was done through the oral-
15	inhalation route, again with fluticasone. Again, what you
16	are seeing is a very similar type of design where now you
17	are looking at your efficacy parameters, AM FEV1 and symptom
18	score and you are seeing activity with the inhaled route but
19	not the oral route.
20	Then, if you look at the Cmax and AUC as your
21	
{	pharmacokinetic parameters, what you are seeing there are
22	pharmacokinetic parameters, what you are seeing there are your highest levels orally. They are easily twice that of
22 23	pharmacokinetic parameters, what you are seeing there are your highest levels orally. They are easily twice that of what is seen by your higher inhaled dose and yet you are not
22 23 24	pharmacokinetic parameters, what you are seeing there are your highest levels orally. They are easily twice that of what is seen by your higher inhaled dose and yet you are not seeing any activity associated with that.

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dissociation between pharmacokinetics and efficacy. So that is a limitation as well.

[Slide.]

The conclusions are that PK is useful to establish systemic absorption. It really is not a surrogate for local efficacy but it is doable. Right now, the assays are out there. You can measure the levels, even nasally, and you can reduce the variability to make it worthwhile and doable. The next question to ask is can you actually do

10 systemic bioequivalence.

[Slide.]

We have got some examples there. We have done a lot of work with BDP. What I want to talk about first, when we are comparing two formulations. Formulations; we will call them MDI-A, MDI-B. The study designs that we used were single dose but multiple inhalations. They were asthmatics with a crossover design and good inhalation technique.

So that will be common to the studies.

[Slide.]

In terms of the devices, if you look at the draft nasal bioequivalence guidance, what you could say is Q1 and Q2 were the same and identical, those two devices. The particle-size distribution, the spray pattern, would meet the criteria were essentially similar. The route size was the same and the actuator, again, dimensions were

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essentially the same.

So there wasn't a lot of difference between the two.

[Slide.]

5 When we did the first study, it was in 18 6 asthmatics. The objective was comparability. What we found 7 was that we came close to matching confidence intervals but 8 we did not make it. You can see Cmax was on the low side of 9 the accepted 0.1 to 1.25. AUC was on the high side.

10 Coefficients of variability, about 50 percent for 11 Cmax, again, similar to what was seen in the earlier slides 12 I showed you with others. AUC also was variable.

[Slide.]

Another study was done, again with the exact same MDIs, MDI-A, MDI-B. Here, the objective was systemic bioequivalence. So, what we did is we increased in N number to 45 and we actually looked at two doses, a low dose and a high dose in this study.

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[Slide.]

You can see here coefficients of variation were
reduced for the most part with a higher N number and now,
essentially, all the parameters did actually meet strict
bioequivalence criteria.

So we concluded from this that we could actually show systemic equivalence but we also did local delivery

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1	studies	for	efficacy.	We	did	not	stop	there.
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[Slide.]

3	Another example we have got is now looking at MDI-
4	C versus MDI-D. In this case, we actually had just
5	different strength products. So, it is the same dose. The
6	only thing different here to give the same dose is different
7	numbers of puffs because you had a different valve size.
8	So one MDI may require twice as much as the other
9	to get the same dose delivered. The study designs that we
10	looked at to analyze C versus D again were single-dose
11	asthmatics, crossover, and a good inhalation technique.
12	Similar to what we found in the previous examples, you have
13	everything matched identical in this case except for the
14	valve size.
15	So, again it was very similar, such as the same
16	formulation but different valve sizes and we did a study
17	with that. We are looking at systemic comparability here in
18	18 asthmatics and we came very close to getting
19	bioequivalence with an N of 18. It was just outside, 7.6
20	for Cmax. If you want to use a more liberal criteria of
21	7.5, it actually would make it.
22	CV wasn't that great in this case.
23	[Slide.]
24	If you look at the next study, when we went to 30,
25	we actually met the criteria. We could include equivalence
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as the conclusion, therefore. We, again, had equivalence, in this case with a reduced N number but we did run a local delivery study to demonstrate efficacy as well. We did not stop there.

[Slide.]

6 Looking at other PK options, we have talked about charcoal block. It certainly allows differentiation of the 7 pulmonary or non-pulmonary absorbed drug. It has got a lot 8 9 of appeal there. The nice thing is it utilizes the same drug assays and metrics so there is little added time or 10 cost. You really don't have to alter the reference or the 11 test formulations as you would have to do for, like, gamma 12 scintigraphy. So it has got a certain appeal to it. 13

[Slide.]

However, the limitations that I see with the charcoal block is that there is no evidence that pulmonary absorbed drug correlates, again, with efficacy. It is true, it gets into lungs, but that is where the real correlation stops. And it does not discriminate potentially important product differences such as oropharyngeal deposition or regional lung deposition.

I look at it as a very useful laboratory took to get at the pulmonary drug absorbed but I don't see it, really as adding very much more to PK. It could be looked at as a potential surrogate for local delivery, again if we

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can establish that link between what is put in the lungs and absorbed versus efficacy.

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Another option is urinary excretion. Supposedly, when PK is not doable, that is a possibility. There are 5 6 examples of that in the literature. It has been reported for the various products up there. There are references for 7 each.one of them. 8

[Slide.]

Here is one, for instance, in nasal ipratropium. It is highly variable. You can see the CV was 84 percent and the dose excreted also was 89 percent. So, although you can do it, it really doesn't seem to have a lot of added So I look at it--it has got high variability. value. It has got low sensitivity. And, therefore, it is unlikely to be a reliable surrogate of what we are trying to do here.

[Slide.]

18 PD has been suggested as a surrogate when PK is 19 not doable. Now, the PD that I am considering is only 20 systemic PD. So you are looking at cortisol, markers of 21 bone growth, of demineralization, things like that. I am 22 not talking about FEV1s at all here. And, again, that 23 requires an appropriate study design.

You usually need a dose-response curve to show that your PD measures are sensitive. It requires repeat

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3	Frankly, it is highly variable. It has got low							
4	sensitivity. It requires, again, multiple dose levels. I							
5	5 don't see that as being very valuable. If you can't do							
6	pharmacokinetics, the likelihood of doing PD is very low.							
7	If you are looking at, say, what is out there published wit							
8	nasal products, if you cannot do pharmacokinetics, I don't							
9	know how you are going to deal with, say, urinary cortisol							
10	or 24-hour cortisols. It just doesn't have the same							
11	sensitivity.							
12	You get the best results when you can do PK as							
13	well so, therefore, I don't see that as a great surrogate							
14	either.							
15	[Slide.]							
16	PK/PD. That is a very nice thing. There has been							
17	a lot of work done there. It, again, allows correlation of							
18	PK with PD. PK is linear. PD has got a dose-response							
19	curve. It certainly offers increased understanding of what							
20	is happening for systemic exposure and safety.							
21	So it has got, again, a lot of appeal in helping							
22	the understanding.							
23	[Slide.]							
24	It is sophisticated work, though. It requires							
25 25	several dose levels, additional analyses and I don't think							
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it really increases the ability to discriminate which is the bottom line for doing bioequivalence. So I look at as a very useful laboratory tool but I don't see it as needed for bioequivalence either.

[Slide.]

5 So, in summary, systemic PK assessment really is 7 what is needed to assure systemic safety and it really is 8 doable for most drugs. The state of the art is you can do 9 it, even nasally.

10 The other possibilities, PD, urine levels, are not 11 likely surrogates. Charcoal block and PK/PD, again, are 12 nice development tools but I don't really see them making 13 the leap, either.

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[Slide.]

So my input into the last question, are there situations where in vitro data plus PK, and, again, even PD, can be relied upon to show assure local efficacy, they can be relied on is the key thing. It really does imply predictability and the list of drugs. It has not been established, really, for any of them.

21 Certainly, there are a lot of questions there. 22 Until we can get better information, I think we need to have 23 caution and err on the side of caution and not really look 24 for situations where you can just do PK without having some 25 type of local delivery component.

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	DR. LEE: Thank you, Lester.				
2	Subcommittee Discussion				
3	DR. LEE: Wally, would you like to provide some				
4	background for your question?				
5	DR. ADAMS: Yes. I would like to ask Lester a				
6	question concerning his last slide. Lester, you were				
7	talking about in vitro data plus PK plus systemic absorption				
8	PD in that case.				
9	DR. HARRISON: Yes; that is correct.				
10	DR. ADAMS: Our question was a general one related				
11	to whether in vitro data plus PK data would be able to				
12	assure bioequivalence. Lester, you are saying no; that is				
13	your answer to this question?				
14	DR. HARRISON: That's correct.				
15	DR. ADAMS: Yet there are cases where you are				
16	indicating if PK data are not doable, then you feel that the				
17	PD is not going to contribute.				
18	DR. HARRISON: That is my position. Based on what				
19	I have experienced in the literature, I have never been				
20	convinced that, if you can't do one, you can do the other.				
21	It is a nice objective but, in reality, I have not seen it				
22	done.				
23	DR. ADAMS: You could have situations where				
24	neither a test product nor a reference product may inhibit				
25	the adrenal axis.				
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DR. HARRISON: Exactly; that is more likely to happen. That is why going up in doses may be an absolute necessity in cases like that. But, even for fluticasone, you can do nasal fluticasone now and the assays are so good that I think that it is getting to the point where we can measure almost anything.

7 DR. LEE: Are there members of the committee who 8 can shed some light on this question?

9 DR. LI: I think, from the standpoint of orally 10 inhaled drugs, that are sufficient variables in regional 11 lung deposition, particle-size distribution, that the sort 12 of in vitro assessment along with pharmacokinetic data 13 without any clinical types of evaluation is probably not 14 going to be enough.

15 I would say that the orally inhaled products16 should have an in vivo assessment.

If we kind of look back to some of the cascade 17 data that we saw and our attempts to use the chi square to 18 get a numerical handle on comparability, chances are that 19 any in vitro assessment for a new product is not going to be 20 exactly the same as the reference product. There are going 21 to be some differences, and the differences may be at 22 various stages of cascade or may be differences in particle 23 size and different ranges. 24

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So it is going to be really impossible to predict

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1 1 1	precisely the biological activity of that orally inhaled				
2	product. So I, basically, would agree, at least certainly				
3	in the area of orally inhaled products, that in vitro				
4	assessment is important but not sufficient. Pharmacokinetic				
5	data is also important but not sufficient. Some in vivo				
6	assessment would be necessary.				
7	DR. ADAMS: Just for clarity, Dr. Li, you are				
. 8	talking about efficacy.				
9	DR. LI: That's correct; for orally inhaled				
10	products.				
11	DR. BEHL: Which could be a bridging study also as				
12	opposed to a full-scale study.				
13	DR. LEE: Is Steve Forrester here? He left?				
14	Okay.				
15	DR. ADAMS: Just to follow up further on this				
16	question, Dr. Uppoor, did you wish to ask the subcommittee				
17	any question with regard to that last question?				
18 '	DR. UPPOOR: I actually just want to find out,				
19	even if you have an innovative product, for example, and				
20	that has been shown to be clinically safe and efficacious				
21	and you have done all these trials that have been approved,				
22	and some minor, some type of change is made to that product				
23	and it is the same product, you have a handle on what goes				
24	on with that product, you have some understanding or,				
25	hopefully, a reasonable understanding of the product, and				

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some minor changes are made, even in those cases, what I am hearing is it doesn't matter what the change is, but if it is an orally inhaled drug product, we would like some kind of efficacy data in addition to in vitro and PK.

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5 DR. LI: If you are addressing that question to 6 me, that would be a question that would, in my view, be 7 extremely focused. I did not, in fact, say that, in that 8 particular set of circumstances, one would necessarily need 9 to go through clinical studies and even to specify what kind 10 of in vitro studies would be necessary.

It hink, in a very narrow sense, depending on what those changes were, say, in the development of the product, if they were such change where one might not expect any significant, really, change in delivery, then probably I would say how things are handled now, case-by-case, would be the way to go.

17 If there are major changes in the formulation and 18 the production and changes in propellent, for example, that 19 would be an example. A change in propellent is probably 20 enough of a change that you would really need to do more 21 extensive testing.

DR. GORE: Just a comment from the perspective of those of us in product quality that have a lot of experience with cascade impactors, rather minor changes in the formulation of the composition of the material can, in fact,

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change what you are, in reality, measuring in the individual
 stages of the cascade impactor.

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So, because of formulation and what is deposited on the cascade-impactor stage is a combination of excipients as well as active ingredient. That is something that would require a lot of validation if you were trying to make a crossover between two different formulations.

B DR. LEE: Are there any comments? I think we are9 kind of supersaturated.

DR. LAGANIERE: I would just add that the experience of Dr. Harrison concerning nasal drug administration, he seems to be alluding to the fact that you can increase the dose if you are not able to see it at the small doses that are usually administered in therapeutics.

But, in the context of safety or exposure, I would like to have maybe the opinion of physicians regarding the relevance of using a so much higher dose that would be usually higher than the recommended daily dose.

DR. HARRISON: Let me just clarify that before you
ask an opinion. I meant within the therapeutic dose range.
You increase the dose. As long as it is in the therapeutic
dose range, say up to four puffs per nostril, you can do
that much.

DR. LAGANIERE: Okay. So that would be a limit in establishing whether a pre-case exposure study is feasible

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al	1	280 or not.
	2 Barrier	DR. HARRISON: Yes. I went fast through my
	3	slides, but what I did show is pharmacokinetically, you can
	4	get a nice dose response with pharmacokinetics in the nose.
	5	It has easily been shown by inhalation, but nasal as well.
	6	DR. LEE: Wally, the short answer to your question
	7	is that, apparently, nobody around this table has any
	8	situations that would respond to your question.
	9	DR. ADAMS: I hear that. Thank you, Vincent.
	10	DR. LEE: Guirag and Wally, are there any other
	11	questions for the committee before we adjourn the meeting?
	12	Anybody else?
	13	DR. GORE: May I ask more of a procedural question
	14	because there was actually a comment made earlier about the
	15	need for another meeting. I would like to say I think there
	16	is a need for another meeting. There is a huge amount of
	17	information, particularly in the CMC area, that was brought
	18	forward in the afternoon that we did not have an opportunity
	19	to discuss and also some proposals for ways to bring more
	20	data into the discussion.
	21	That is just my proposal. I think we need another
	22	meeting.
на 1 1946 г.	23	DR. LEE: If there are no further comments, I
e e e	24	would like to thank everybody for participating openly. I
	25	am surprised that I am still alive. I thank you for your

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input and have a safe journey home. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 5:08 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]

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