


**THE INCLUSION OF OLDER PEOPLE IN PRE-AUTHORISATION TRIALS**

An evaluation of 12 recently authorised medicines

Erna Beers MD, clinical pharmacologist

D.C. Moerkerken, P.A.F. Jansen, A.C.G. Egberts, H.G.M. Leufkens


Patient care  
Education  
Research



## Introduction


- Since 1980s discussion about limited inclusion of older people in clinical trials
  - Upper age limits
  - Eligibility criteria

→ Generalisability of trial efficacy and safety findings towards older population questionable




## ICH E7 guideline (1994)

- In order to improve the inclusion in phase II and phase III trials
- Minimum number of older participants required:
  - Diseases specifically associated with ageing:
    - ≥ 50% of the trial participants should be 65+
  - Diseases not unique to, but present in old age:
    - ≥ 100 participants 65+
- Numbers and proportions representative for target population



## Study aim

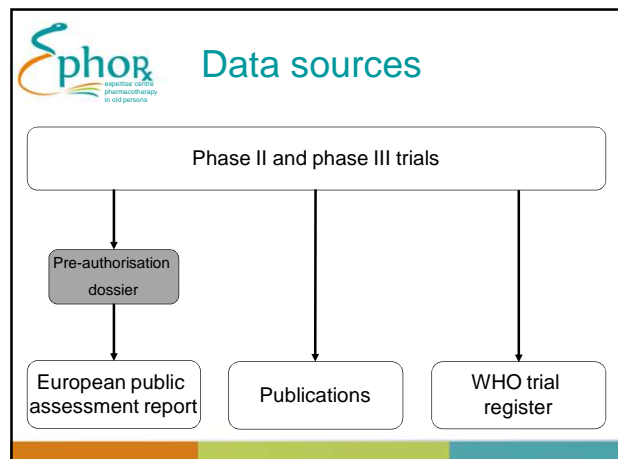
To evaluate the number and proportion of older subjects in trials of recently authorised medicines and evaluate the adherence to the ICH E7 guideline



## Methods

### Inclusion of medicines

- Diseases characteristically associated with ageing
  - Prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) after elective hip or knee replacement surgery
  - Osteoporosis
  - Atrial fibrillation
- Diseases not unique to, but present in old age
  - Type II diabetes mellitus (DM2)
  - Major depression
  - Bipolar disorder
  - Epilepsy
- First time European market approval between January 2008 and January 2011



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## Data extraction and analysis

- All phase II and phase III studies
- Variables
  - Number of all randomised participants
  - Number of those aged  $\geq 65$  and  $\geq 75$  years
- Descriptive analysis
  - Numbers and proportions (%)

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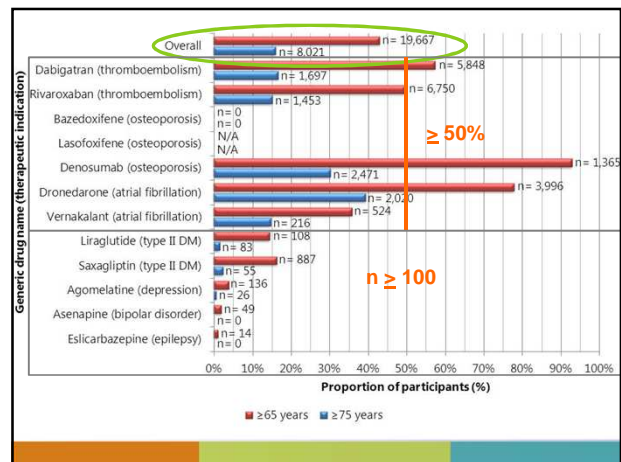
## Results

Approved therapeutic indication / generic name	Number of trials	Number of randomised participants
<b>Overall, n (%)</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>88,261</b>
<b>Prevention venous thromboembolism</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23,777</b>
Dabigatran	4	10,183
Rivaroxaban	9	13,594
<b>Osteoporosis</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33,109</b>
Bazedoxifene	5	10,660
Lasofoxifene	16 (4)	9,644
Denosumab	11	12,805
<b>Atrial fibrillation</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8,958</b>
Dronedarone	8	7,495
Vernakalant	8	1,463
<b>Type 2 diabetes mellitus</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10,883</b>
Liraglutide	12	5,430
Saxagliptin	9	5,453
<b>Depressive disorder – agomelatine</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4,614</b>
<b>Bipolar disorder – asenapine maleate</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5,496</b>
<b>Epilepsy – eslicarbazepine</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,424</b>

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## Availability of data

Number of trials providing information about participants aged 65+	Overall number of randomised patients in these trials	Number of trials providing information about participants aged 75+	Overall number of randomised patients in these trials
53 (46.5)	45,697 (51.8)	58 (50.9)	49,890 (56.5)



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## Discussion

- Therapeutic indications specifically associated with ageing proportion almost 50%
  - Number and proportions fairly good
  - Large variations
- Therapeutic indications not unique to old age subjects aged 65+, median 108
  - Numbers and proportions limited

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## Discussion ICH E7

- Eight (67%) medicines fulfilled the ICH E7 criteria

Therapeutic indication	Medicines
Prevention VTE	dabigatran, rivaroxaban
Osteoporosis	bazedoxifene, lasofoxifene, denosumab
Atrial fibrillation	dronedarone, vernakalant
Diabetes mellitus	liraglutide, saxagliptin
Major depression	agomelatine
Bipolar disorder	asenapine
Epilepsia	eslicarbazepine

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## Limitations and strengths

- **Limitations:**
  - Underreporting of number / proportion of older subjects
  - Randomised population ~ population that used trial medication?
  - Small number of trials per therapeutic indication
- **Strengths:**
  - 3 data sources (70% in WHO trial register, 70% published)
  - Focus on categories of therapeutic indications
  - Phase II and Phase III trials

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## Conclusions

- The number and proportion of older subjects in trials should be improved, especially in trials for diseases not unique to, but present in old age
- They should be representative of the prevalence in the target population

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