The Estimands Academy for Trial Teams "Bringing estimands to *life* through real case studies"

Webinar 2: Estimands in Oncology - How and Why

US/EU webinar: 1st of June 2021 3-4:30 pm UK /4-5:30 pm CET/10-11:30 am EST/7-8:30 am Pacific time

EU/ASIA webinar: 2nd of June 2021 9-10:30 am UK/10-11:30 am CET/4-5:30 pm Shanghai







EFPIA / EFSPI Estimand Implementation Working Group (EIWG)



EIWG brings together statisticians and clinicians to support the estimand journey

Estimand Implementation Working Group (EIWG) Members



Disclaimer

 Opinions are those of the presenters and are not necessarily the views of the respective companies.

International Oncology Estimands Working Group

- Goal: A common understanding across industry
- As of 13 April 2021, the working group has 61 members (from Europe, US, and Asia) representing 33 companies
- EFSPI SIG (Nov 2018) and ASA Biopharm Section SWG (Apr 2019)
- In dialogue with eight health authorities globally
- Weblink <u>www.oncoestimand.org</u>



Introductions

Kaspar Rufibach is an Expert Statistical Scientist in Roche's Methods, Collaboration, and Outreach group and located in Basel. He has co-founded and co-leads the European special interest group " Estimands in oncology ". Moderator of June 2 session	Roche
Stefan Englert has 9+ years of experience in oncology drug development working for AbbVie Germany and leads the clinical engagement task force of the cross-industry international working group on estimands in oncology. Moderator of June 1 session and Co-Presenter June 2	abbvie
Paul Bycott has 24 years of pharmaceutical experience predominately in oncology. He is currently the Head of the Breast Cancer Franchise for statistics at Pfizer. Co-Presenter June 1	Pfizer
Feng Liu has 20+ years of experience in pharmaceutical drug development working for Intercept Pharma. Co-Presenter June 1	Intracept 🚺
Rui (Sammi) Tang is the Head of Biostatistics, Programming and Medical Writing Department at Servier Pharmaceuticals US. Co-Presenter June 1	
Jiawei Wei is currently a Director Statistical Consultant in the Advanced Methodology and Data Science group at Novartis. Co-Presenter June 2	IN NOVADTIC
Giovanna Andreola , MD, is a board-certified oncologist with several years of clinical experience in hematology and stem cell transplantation working at Novartis. Co-Presenter June 2	U NOVAKIIS
Jonathan Siegel is Director of Oncology Clinical Statistics US at Bayer with over 20 years' experience in pharmaceutical oncology in multiple companies.	BAYER

Our sincere thanks to:

- ◆ To EFPIA/EFSPI for sponsoring and promoting the webinar.
- To EIWG members for the lively discussion and comments on the slides.

- Recognize the benefits of following the estimand framework (ICH E9 (R1) addendum) in the context of a clinical trial, in order to:
 - have a common language to describe the diversity of patient journeys
 - address the right question in clinical trials
- Be able to construct an estimand, including identification of relevant intercurrent events and application of relevant strategies to address them
- Gain insights from a cross-industry international working group on estimands in oncology

Introductions, Acknowledgements and Learning Outcomes

Introduction to the case study

Intermezzo

Estimands in Oncology – How and Why

Revisiting the case study

Interactive Quiz with Q&A

Concluding Remarks

Motivating Example: Checkmate-37

Nivolumab (an immune checkpoint inhibitor) versus chemotherapy in patients with advanced melanoma who progressed after ipilimumab treatment: a randomized, controlled, open-label, phase 3 trial.



Primary Objectives

- To show superiority in overall survival (OS) of nivolumab over chemotherapy
- To estimate the objective response rate (ORR) in the nivolumab treatment group (noncomparative assessment)

Overall Survival (OS)

Defined as the time from randomization until death from any cause.

Survival is considered the most reliable cancer endpoint and is usually the preferred endpoint.

Objective Response Rate (ORR)

Defined as the proportion of subjects who had achieved an objective response. Used as an early indicator of activity.

Best Overall Response	Description		
Complete Response (CR)	Disappearance of all disease	Objective	
Partial Response (PR)	At least a 30% decrease in tumor burden from baseline	Response	
Stable Disease (SD)	None of the others		
Progressive Disease (PD)	New disease or at least 20 % increase in tumor burden from nadir		
Note: Simplified presentation for patients without pon-target losions			

Checkmate-37: Early assessment of ORR

31.7% ORR in Nivolumab group (n=120)

- 95% CI: (23.5,40.8) excludes pre-defined 15% threshold
- ◆ 10.6% ORR in investigator's choice chemotherapy group (n=47)
 - 95% CI: (3.5,23.1)



Checkmate-37: Final assessment of Overall Survival

Overall survival: Hazard Ratio = 0.95, median overall survival 15.7 months vs 14.4 months



CheckMate 037: Nivolumab Improved Responses, <u>Not</u> Survival in Advanced Melanoma

July 17, 2017 Leah Lawrence

> Reference: https://www.cancernetwork.com/view/checkmate-037nivolumab-improved-responses-not-survival-advanced-melanoma (red highlight added)

Impact on Industry Reputation

PHARMALOT

STAT+

Flawed trials supported half of recent approvals of cancer drugs in Europe, study says

By ED SILVERMAN @Pharmalot / SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

THE **MILBANKQUARTERLY** A MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF POPULATION HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY

Original Scholarship 🖞 🗇 Open Access 🕼 🛈

Approval of Cancer Drugs With Uncertain Therapeutic Value: A Comparison of Regulatory Decisions in Europe and the United States

MAXIMILIAN SALCHER-KONRAD 🗙, HUSEYIN NACI, COURTNEY DAVIS

First published: 06 October 2020 | https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0009.12476

Conclusions: US and European regulators often deemed early and less complete evidence on benefit-risk profiles of cancer drugs sufficient to grant regular approval, raising questions over regulatory standards for the approval of new medicines. Even when imposing confirmatory studies in the postmarket-



Journal of Clinical Epidemiology Volume 127, November 2020, Pages 1-8

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Original Article

Evidence of survival benefit was often ambiguous in randomized trials of cancer treatments

The Guardian Over half of new cancer drugs 'show no benefits' for survival or wellbeing

Of 48 cancer drugs approved between 2009-2013, 57% of uses showed no benefits and some benefits were 'clinically meaningless', says BMJ study

Checkmate-37: Patient Flow Chart

Open-label trial and several competing studies with other checkpoint inhibitors ongoing at the time of enrollment



	Observation
Patient opted out of prescribed treatment	Pre-treatment: 22% in chemotherapy-arm withdrew consent immediately after randomization
Checkpoint inhibitor therapy received (drug from same class)	Post-treatment discontinuation: at least 41% in chemotherapy-arm received another checkpoint inhibitor

Post-hoc analysis of overall survival

Overall survival in **treated** patients with subjects **censored if they start another check point inhibitor treatment**: Hazard Ratio = 0.81, median OS: 16.4 months vs 11.8 months



CheckMate 037: Nivolumab Improved Responses, <u>Not</u> Survival in Advanced Melanoma

July 17, 2017 Leah Lawrence

> Reference: https://www.cancernetwork.com/view/checkmate-037nivolumab-improved-responses-not-survival-advanced-melanoma (red highlight added)

Highlighting the importance to address the right question in clinical trials

This is a great example ..., but I think the issue in Checkmate is not necessarily what is seen in a typical study...

Our clinical trial is aligned to agreed objectives!

So, show me your meaningful description of the treatment effect?

(3)

After you put all these pieces together you will know what we actually wanted.

Even if not, we are able to perform additional analyses to fulfill all needs. Well, as long as we have collected the appropriate data to do so... Are you sure your study team, your management, and regulators always come to the same conclusion?

Seems like a lot of additional work

Fair enough. If only we had a structured framework that fully aligns the trial with the clinical objectives...

It's already here! It's called the Estimand Framework.

(4)

) That's easy. Objectives are in Section 3 of the protocol.

Endpoints are defined later.

The handling of special events is described somewhere in the Statistical Analysis Plan. At least that is my understanding.



ICH E9 (R1) Estimand Framework

- Promotes alignment between trial objectives, design, data collection, conduct, analysis and inference
- Results in increased transparency and more trust in the biopharmaceutical industry
- Strengthens interdisciplinary dialogue at the design stage
 - Reduces the risk of different interpretations by relevant stakeholders (regulators, payers, patients, etc.)
- Informs what data to collect
- Aligns expectations between drug developers and regulatory bodies
- Requires a more precise definition of trial objective and meaningful treatment effect (i.e., an estimand)



What is an estimand?



Remind yourself of the Soup analogy in the first webinar



Five Components of an Estimand



e.g., active drug / placebo, background medication, rescue medication

Five Components of an Estimand



Strategies for Intercurrent Events

Intercurrent Events: (ICH E9 Addendum Glossary)

Events occurring after treatment initiation that either prevent the observation of the variable or affect its interpretation



- In an estimands framework, it is necessary to:
 - Understand the actual reasons for intercurrent events
 - Understand the impact these events might have on the interpretation of the actual data in light of the research question
 - Pre-plan for them in close cooperation with study team members from different disciplines

Patient Profiles



– – On drug

Best Overall

Best Overall Response	Primary Endpoint Objective Response
Complete Response (CR)	Objective Response
Partial Response (PR)	Objective Response
Stable Disease (SD)	Non-Responder
Progressive Disease (PD)	Non-Responder

Patient Profiles





- The treatment effect might be influenced by subsequent therapy ۲
- In this case, subsequent therapy would be an 'Intercurrent Event' ۲

5 Strategies for Intercurrent Events

Irrespective of

- Outcome after intercurrent event is still of interest
- Data should be collected after intercurrent event

Treatment Policy



Study Treatment + Subsequent therapy

- The treatment effect for Drug X irrespective of / together with subsequent therapy (taken as required) is of interest.
- In this case, subsequent therapy would be reflected in the 'Treatment Conditions' attribute of the Estimand.

5 Strategies for Intercurrent Events







- If subsequent therapy intake is considered an undesirable outcome, subsequent therapy could become part of the endpoint of the trial.
- A patient who receives a subsequent therapy is considered a non-responder.

5 Strategies for Intercurrent Events

Irrespective of	Include in Outcome	Scenario in which event does not occur
 Outcome after intercurrent event is still of interest Data should be collected after intercurrent event 	 Define composite endpoint including the intercurrent event Intercurrent event is informative for effect of interest 	 A scenario is envisaged in which the intercurrent event would not occur
Treatment Policy	Composite	Hypothetical

Scenario in which event does not occur (Hypothetical strategy)



Best Overall

- The treatment effect for Drug X as if subsequent therapy was not available, is of interest.
- Hypothetical strategy for subsequent therapy would be reflected in the 'Strategies for intercurrent events' attribute of the Estimand.

Slide 31 CR = Complete Response, PR = Partial Response, SD = Stable Disease, PD = Progressive Disease

5 Strategies for Intercurrent Events

Irrespective of	Include in Outcome	Scenario in which event does not occur	Prior to occurrence
 Outcome after intercurrent event is still of interest Data should be collected after intercurrent event 	 Define composite endpoint including the intercurrent event Intercurrent event is informative for effect of interest 	 A scenario is envisaged in which the intercurrent event would not occur 	 Scientific question is about what happened prior to the intercurrent event Outcome after intercurrent event is considered irrelevant
Treatment Policy	Composite	Hypothetical	While on Treatment



Variable prior to subsequent therapy

- Treatment effect prior to receiving subsequent anticancer therapy
- This strategy modifies the endpoint to "best response prior to subsequent therapy"

5 Strategies for Intercurrent Events

Irrespective of	Include in Outcome	Scenario in which event does not occur	Prior to occurrence	As part of target population definition
 Outcome after intercurrent event is still of interest Data should be collected after intercurrent event 	 Define composite endpoint including the intercurrent event Intercurrent event is informative for effect of interest 	 A scenario is envisaged in which the intercurrent event would not occur 	 Scientific question is about what happened prior to the intercurrent event Outcome after intercurrent event is considered irrelevant 	 Population is defined by those in whom the intercurrent event would or would not occur
Treatment Policy	Composite	Hypothetical	While on Treatment	Principal Stratum

5 Strategies – 5 Answers, to different questions



- There is no universal 'correct' strategy
- The Estimand Framework helps to make implicit assumptions transparent and helps to align at the design stage the team/sponsor/regulators on the clinical questions of interest

Real Life





Take subsequent therapy

Withdrawal from treatment

Death

Same approach

- 1. Identify and plan for relevant intercurrent events
- 2. Align on suitable strategy for each of them

Primary objective: "To show superiority in overall survival of nivolumab over chemotherapy" – but what exactly does that mean?

Intercurrent Event

Patient opted out of prescribed treatment



Checkpoint inhibitor therapy received

Checkmate-37: Revisiting

Primary objective: "To show superiority in overall survival of nivolumab over chemotherapy" – but what exactly does that mean?

Intercurrent Event	Primary Analysis	
Patient opted out of prescribed treatment	Irrespective of (Treatment Policy)	Assumes whatever happens after randomization reflects clinical practice
Checkpoint inhibitor therapy received	Irrespective of (Treatment Policy)	Did not anticipate treatment switching to drugs with same mechanism of action
Question of interest	Survival benefit after prescription of Nivolumab vs Chemo regardless of whether patients take assigned treatment or receive other therapy	

Estimand for the Primary Analysis



The target of estimation:

The treatment effect of Nivolumab compared with investigator's choice chemotherapy for patients with advanced melanoma who progressed on or after ipilimumab measured by the hazard ratio of overall survival, regardless of whether the subject opted out of prescribed treatment or receive other therapy.



Checkmate-37: Revisiting

Primary objective: "To show superiority in overall survival of nivolumab over chemotherapy" – but what exactly does that mean?

Intercurrent Event	Primary Analysis	Post-Hoc Analysis
Patient opted out of prescribed treatment	Irrespective of (Treatment Policy)	Subgroup analysis (?)
Checkpoint inhibitor therapy received	Irrespective of (Treatment Policy)	Predict (Hypothetical)
Question of interest	Survival benefit after prescription of Nivolumab vs chemotherapy regardless of whether patients take assigned treatment or receive other therapy	Survival benefit after treatment with Nivolumab vs chemotherapy as if patients never received follow-up checkpoint inhibitor therapy

Different questions with different answers

Estimand for the Post-Hoc Analysis



The target of estimation:

The treatment effect of Nivolumab compared with investigator's choice chemotherapy for treated patients with advanced melanoma who progressed on or after ipilimumab measured by the hazard ratio of overall survival as though subsequent immune checkpoint inhibitor treatment is not available.



Always build your Estimand



Quiz!

What primary role is responsible for defining the estimand?

- Statistician
- Clinician
- Regulatory
- The study team

Estimands should be discussed and developed

- During protocol development
- After the protocol has been finalized but prior to finalizing the statistical analysis plan
- After finalizing the statistical analysis plan but prior to unblinding

- Common intercurrent events for oncology clinical trials include (check all that apply)
 - Death due to COVID
 - Start of new anticancer therapy
 - Premature discontinuation from treatment
 - Withdrawal from study
 - Concomitant radiation

Background on acute myeloid leukemia (AML) :

- As for other hematologic malignancies, treatments are often given in a sequence based on a certain algorithm (e.g., AML: induction, consolidation, maintenance)
- Stem cell transplantation (SCT) as option
 - potentially curative in ~50% of patients
 - associated with significant complications and with a 15-20% rate of transplant-related mortality
- Any new classes of drugs available recently that provide new options after treatment failure/relapse

Specific topics requiring dedicated considerations in the estimand framework

RATIFY study

- Population: newly diagnosed AML patients with a FLT-3 mutation
- Primary Objective: to determine if the addition of midostaurin to induction, consolidation, and maintenance therapy improves overall survival
- Design: Phase 3, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled



- What are the attributes of the primary estimand? (check all that apply)
 - the sample size, n=717
 - the treatment, midostaurin vs. placebo
 - the endpoint, overall survival
 - a description of how to handle events that occur post randomization that can preclude the observation of the endpoint or affect its interpretation (i.e., intercurrent events)
 - the final p-value, p=0.009
 - the population of interest, newly diagnosed AML patients with a FLT-3 mutation
 - a population-level summary measure for the endpoint of interest, hazard ratio

- The primary estimand in RATIFY considered overall survival regardless of receiving stem cell transplantation. What intercurrent event strategy was used for stem cell transplantation?
 - Hypothetical
 - Treatment policy
 - Composite
 - While on treatment
- Which intercurrent event strategy would you have used for stem cell transplantation?
 - Hypothetical
 - Treatment policy
 - Composite
 - While on treatment
 - None, censor overall survival after SCT.

The benefits of estimands include (check all that apply)

- Promotes alignment between trial objectives, design, data collection, and analysis and inference
- Increases transparency over what is being measured
- Increases the number of analyses required
- Provides clear language to discuss different objectives for different stakeholders
- Strengthens the interdisciplinary dialogue at design stage

Estimands were used in all COVID-19 Vaccine Trials



A Study to Evaluate Efficacy, Safety, and Immunogenicity of mRNA-1273 Vaccine in Adults Aged 18 Years and Older to Prevent COVID-19

Table 19: Primary Objective and Estimands with Rationale for Strategies to Address Intercurrent Events for Per-Protocol Analysis Objective: To demonstrate the efficacy of mRNA-1273 to prevent COVID-19 Estimand Description Vaccine efficacy will be measured using 1 - HR (mRNA-1273/Placebo) of COVID-19 from 14 days after second dose of IP in adults. A treatment policy strategy will be used for early discontinuation (eg, withdrawal consent, deaths unrelated to COVID-19) or early infection. A principal stratum strategy is used to exclude participants missing a dose of IP or being seropositive at baseline Adults aged 18 years and older in circumstances at a high risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection but without **Target Population** medical conditions that pose additional risk of developing severe disease The population excludes those previously infected or vaccinated for SARS-CoV-2 or with a medical condition, on treatment that poses additional risks (including those requiring immunosuppressants or immune-modifying drugs), or pre-seropositive. Variable/Endpoin Time to infection, censoring at early discontinuation, early infection, or last assessment for an event not being observed, whichever comes earlier Test: mRNA-1273 Treatment Condition(s Reference: Placebo Estimand Label Estimand 1 Population-Level Vaccine efficacy defined as 1 - HR of mRNA-1273/Placebo Summary Intercurrent Event Strategy IcEv1 (Early Treatment policy discontinuation): IcEv2 (early infection): Treatment policy IcEv3 (Missed dose of Principal stratum



Phase III Double-blind, Placebocontrolled Study of AZD1222 for the Prevention of COVID-19 in Adults

Objective ^a		Estimand ^b Description/Endpoint
PR	IMARY	
		Population: Full analysis set, excluding participants who are seropositive at baseline.
		Endpoint: A binary response, whereby a participant is defined as a COVID-19 case if their first case of SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR-positive symptomatic illness occurs \geq 15 days post second dose of study intervention. Otherwise, a participant is not defined as a COVID-19 case.
1 To estimate the efficacy of 2 IM doses of AZD1222 compared to placebo for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults ≥ 18 years of age	Intercurrent events: For participants who withdraw from the study prior to having met the criteria for the primary efficacy endpoint, absence of data following these participants' withdrawal will be treated as missing (ie, counted as not having met the criteria); participants who withdraw before 15 days post second dose or who have a case prior to 15 days post second dose will be excluded from primary endpoint analysis.	
		Summary measure: VE, calculated as 1-relative risk. (Relative risk is the incidence of infection in the vaccine group relative to the incidence of infection in the control group.)



Study to Describe the Safety, Tolerability, Immunogenicity, and Efficacy of RNA Vaccine Candidates Against COVID-19 in Healthy Individuals

3.2. For Phase 2/3

Objectives ^a	Estimands	Endpoints
	Primary Efficacy	
To evaluate the efficacy of prophylactic BNT162b2 against confirmed COVID-19 in participants without evidence of infection before vaccination	In participants complying with the key protocol criteria (evaluable participants) at least 7 days after receipt of the last dose of study intervention: $100 \times (1 - IRR)$ [ratio of active vaccine to placebo]	COVID-19 incidence per 1000 person-years of follow-up based on central laboratory or locally confirmed NAAT in participants with no serological or virological evidence (up to 7 days after receipt of the last dose) of past SARS-CoV-2 infection
To evaluate the efficacy of prophylactic BNT162b2 against confirmed COVID-19 in participants with and without evidence of infection before vaccination	In participants complying with the key protocol criteria (evaluable participants) at least 7 days after receipt of the last dose of study intervention: $100 \times (1 - IRR)$ [ratio of active vaccine to placebo]	COVID-19 incidence per 1000 person-years of follow-up based on central laboratory or locally confirmed NAAT

Your Role: Construction of Estimands

It is a multi-disciplinary undertaking and should be the subject of discussion between sponsors and regulators



The Estimands Academy for Trial Teams

"Bringing estimands to life through real case studies"

Two webinars coming soon:

- Respiratory case study
- Using estimands in trials developing COVID vaccines