

Case Study 6: Novo Nordisk Experience in the Application of QbD

Steffen Gross, Paul-Ehrlich-Institute Preben Østfeldt, Novo Nordisk



PDA' Partiral big Associates

Case Study team

Regulators

- Steffen Gross, Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, DE
- Mats Welin, Medical Products Agency, SE
- Ton van der Stappen, Medicines Evaluation Board, NL
- Pascal Venneugues, European Medicines Agency, EU
- Anna-Lisa Smeds, Medical Products Agency, SE

Company

- Preben Østfeldt, Novo Nordisk, DK
- Henrik Kim Nielsen, Novo Nordisk, DK
- Per Østergaard, Novo Nordisk, DK
- Thorbjørn Strøm-Hansen, Novo Nordisk, DK
- Arne Staby, Novo Nordisk, DK
- Janus Krarup, Novo Nordisk, DK



Case Study 6: Overview

- Introduction to Case Study
- Overview of vatreptacog alfa
- Discussion Topics
 - 1. Model verification in laboratory and commercial scale
 - 2. Movement within the design space
 - 3. Recalibration / adjustment of model constants
 - 4. Criticality of process parameters
 - Control strategy



Introduction to Case Study

- Vatreptacog alfa is a recombinant human Factor VIIa analogue engineered for enhanced activity. It was intended for by-pass therapy for haemophilia patients with inhibitors against Factor VIII or Factor IX
- The manufacturing process include an activation step developed with a design space
- All other manufacturing steps are traditional set-point steps operated within proven acceptable ranges
- The project was terminated due to anti-drug antibody formation and not submitted for approval
- This case study summarises learnings from EMA scientific advice and interactions with other health authorities



Biotech vs. Small Molecules

Biotechnological products are more complex than small molecules

- They are typically a mix of isoforms, e.g.
 - A mixture of different glycosylated forms
 A change in glycosylation profile may impact bioavailability (efficacy) or potentially increase immunogenicity (safety)
- There are often a wide range of degradation products
 - Not always easy to distinguish between product related substances (active and safe – not CQA's) and product related impurities (not active or with safety concerns – CQA's)



Biotech vs. Small Molecules

- Consequently, for biotechnological products
 - Identification of all relevant CQA's can be a challenge and new CQA's may be identified during commercial manufacture
 - Changes to manufacturing process may affect product quality
 - Release against specifications alone does not necessarily confirm product quality
- Therefore, an appropriate control strategy is necessary to ensure product quality



Drug substance purification process

Cultivation

Filtration

Capture

Chromatography

Chromatography

Chromatography

Chromatography

Treatment

Activation

Virus filtration

Drug substance

 Upstream process conditions are set to minimize activation and subsequent degradation

 Activation is performed late in the process to minimize further degradation

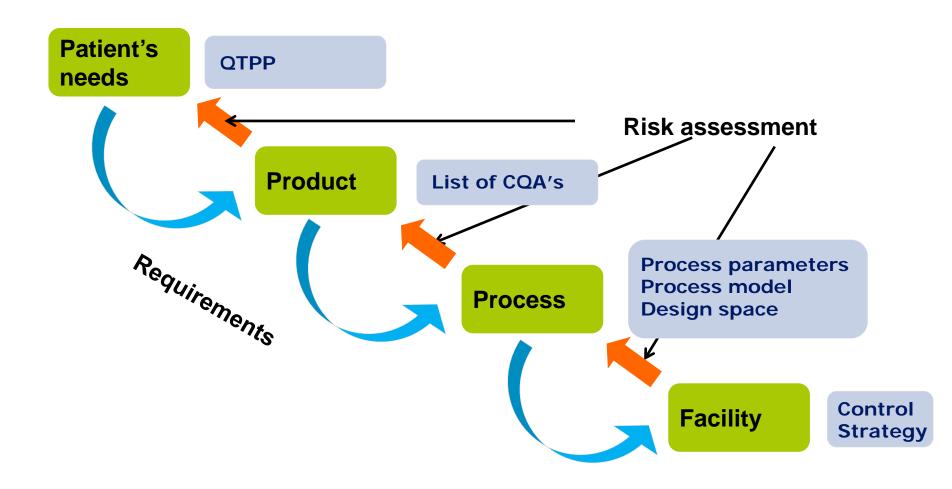


Purpose of activation step

- To obtain a degree of activation within the proposed drug substance specifications without inducing unacceptable formation of degradation products
- Activation is described by a mechanistic model



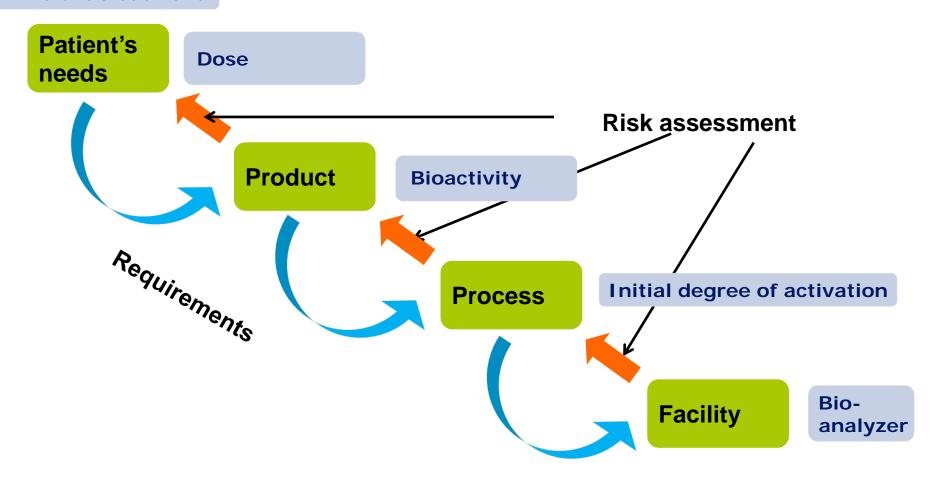
Linking patient's needs to control strategy





Linking patient's needs to control strategy

Efficient treatment





Critical Quality Attributes

Severity class	Definition	Consequence		
5	Serious adverse event with fatal outcome			
4	Serious event without fatal outcome	Medical consequence		
3	Non-serious event			
2	Discomfort	No medical		
1	Dissatisfaction of quality expectation	consequence		



Excerpt from CQA list

CQA	DS	DP	s	Rationale for severity rating
Glycosylation pattern	x		3	Results from clinical trials [ref] have shown that the differences in degree of sialylation did not impact the clinical PK profiles. In spite of these results the different glycosylation patterns may result in less active forms.
HMWP	Х	Х	4	May increase the risk of inhibitor formation. Potential immunogenicity, cross-reaction to patients own FVIIa
Desamido forms			NA	Degradation by desamidation has not been observed for vatreptacog alfa
Oxidated forms	x	x	4	Known from rFVIIa to have less clinical effect. Same lack of effect is expected for vatreptacog alfa. May increase the risk of inhibitor formation. Potential immunogenicity, cross-reaction to patients own FVIIa
Heavy-Chain degraded forms	х	Х	4	New forms of the molecule can cause immunogenicity, but those antibodies are less likely to be cross-reacting to the patient's own FVIIa. Heavy-chain degraded forms of vatreptacog alfa have reduced clotting activity.
Host cell protein	Х		4	Potential immunogenicity
Sterility		Х	4	Injection of a non-sterile product could lead to infection, due to bacterial contaminations
Pyrogens	Х	Х	5	Pyrogens/bacterial endotoxin can cause endotoxemia, and lead to septic shock
Isotonicity (Injection pain)	х	х	2	May cause discomfort
Product appearance		Х	1	Product may not meet customer expectation



Impact of process steps on CQAs

CQA	Cultivation	Harvest and Filtration	Capture	Chromatography 1	Chromatography 2	Chromatography 3	Chromatography 4	Treatment	Activation	Virus filtration
Amount of API									X	
Glycosylation pattern	X	X								
HMWP								X	X	
Oxidated forms	Х									
Heavy chain degradation forms									X	
Host cell protein	Х		X			X	X			

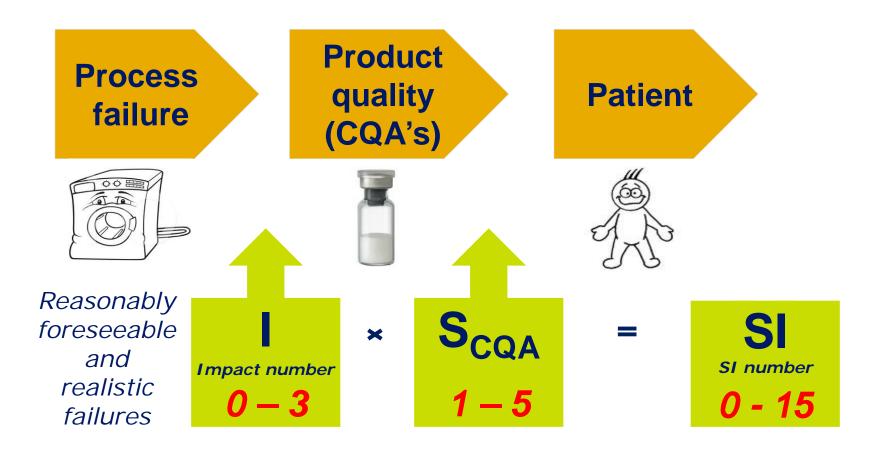


Process risk assessment

- Based on FMECA methodology
- Severity, occurrence and detection scores assigned to process failure modes (process parameter excursions)
- Integrates determination of process parameter criticality by linking to severity of the CQA's
- Criticality ≠ Risk
 - CPP → A failure will have high impact on quality
 - A insufficiently controlled CPP is high risk
 - A well-controlled CPP is low risk



Severity evaluation in the FMECA



PDA Passized by Assaults

Criticality

SI number is converted into a Criticality value

SI number	Criticality value
0 - 2	0
3 – 4	1
5 – 6	2
8 - 9	3
10 - 12	4
15	5

Criticality value = Severity score in the FMECA



FMECA step-by-step example

	•	PROCES	S DESC	RIPTION	С	AUS		EFFE Critic	CT M	ATR	IX I					PROCESS										
						c			tribut	tes			FMECA													
						3	4	4	3	4]															
	Frocess parameter	Setpoint	Operational range	Potential failure mode (<i>What may go</i> <i>wrong</i>)		Amount of API/Bioactivity	Heavy-chain degradation	HMWP by size-exclusion	Single chain (bioanalyzer)	Gla-domainless forms	Max. SI number	Potential effect(s) of failure (How does failure impact product quality)	Criticality value, C	Potential Cause(s) of Failure (Occurrence) (Why does failure happen)	Occurrence	Current Controls (Detection) (How is failure detected)	Detection	Risk evaluation number	Risk class	Comments	Recommended action(s), responsible and timing					
AC	tiva	tion								_	_				1					The pH meter is routinely	ı					
⊣q		6.2 - 6.8	Set	pH >	Impact	2	3	0	0	0	12	Too high pH will lead to increased	1	Inaccuracy of pH	3	Will be detected by API specification	1	12		calibrated before ech measurment and there is a double control of the measurement. Based on these	No further					
pr	1	0.2 - 0.6	point ± 0.1	point		point	point	point	Set point + 0.1	SI	6	12	0	0	o	12	2 heavy chain degradation and lower bioactivity		measurement or human error		testing for heavy chain degradation	-	12		measures combined with the high detection probability for heavy chain degradation, it is concluded that the risk is at an acceptable level.	actions

Process description and failure mode

Impact assessment

Severity/ Criticality

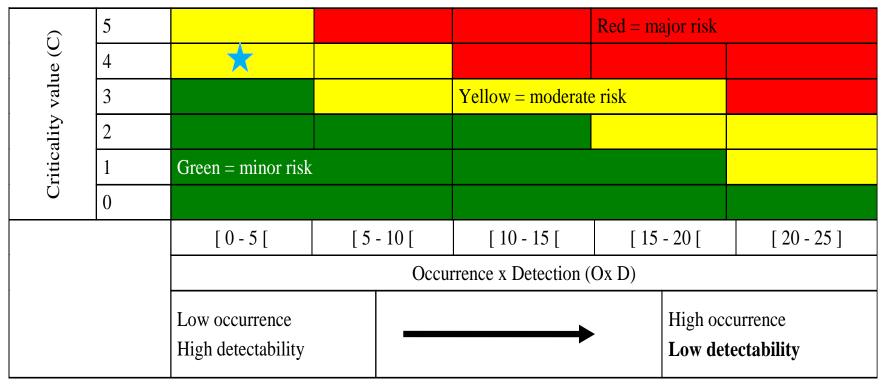
Occurence and detectability

Risk evaluation and control

27 individual failure modes were assessed for the activation step



Risk Evaluation

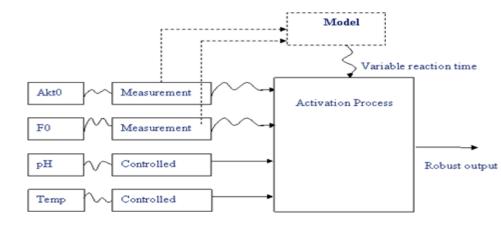


"Heat Map"



The Activation Step

- Activation occurs by auto-proteolysis
- When activated the enzyme may autodegrade
- The enzyme activity is strongly pH dependent
 - Essentially inactive below pH 5.8
- The input stream is the eluate from a chromatography step and varies inevitably in protein concentration and initial degree of activation
- The activation time depends on initial degree of activation, protein conc., pH and temperature and can be calculated by a mechanistic model
- 100% agreement between model and actual value is not required as long as all batches complies with the specification



akt 0 Initial degree of activationF 0 Total amount of protein (activated and un-activated)



Derivation of model

- The model for activation is based on general mechanistic models
 - pH dependency based on protonation/de-protonation of the active catalytic site
 - Concentration dependency of the autocatalytic reaction

$$FVII \xrightarrow{FVIIa} FVIIa$$



The mechanistic model can be solved

$$akt = -\frac{akt0}{\exp(-t \cdot k \cdot xb \cdot F0) \cdot akt0 - \exp(-t \cdot k \cdot xb \cdot F0) - akt0}$$

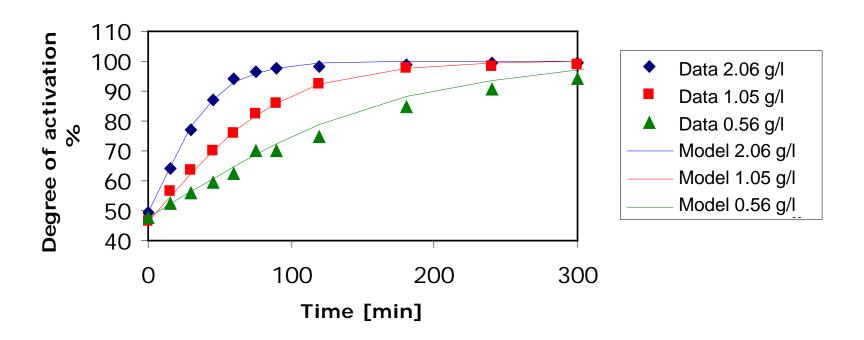
$$xb = \frac{10^{pH-7.61}}{1+10^{pH-7.61}}$$

akt	Activation
akt 0	Initial degree of activation
F 0	Total amount of protein (activated and un-activated)
k	Concentration dependent rate constant – determined during calibration
7.61	pKa for dissociation of the histidine side chain – determined during calibration
xb	Molar fraction of histidines side chain, which is deprotonized – determine the
	pH dependency of the reaction



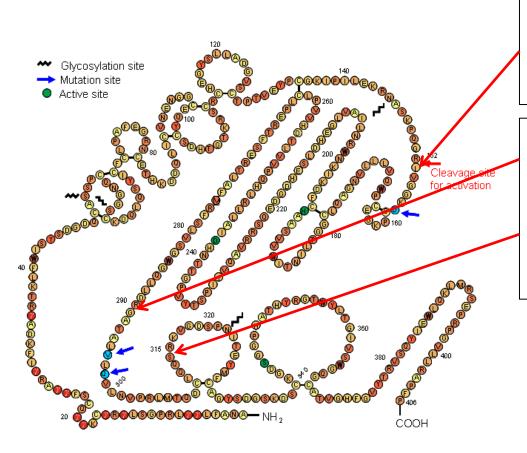
Laboratory data for calibration of model

Variation in conc [pH=6.5]





Clip forms of vatreptacog alfa



Activation:

Clip at AA 152 / 153

Light chain: AA 1 - 152

Heavy chain: AA 153 - 406

Heavy chain degradation:

Clip at AA 290 / 291

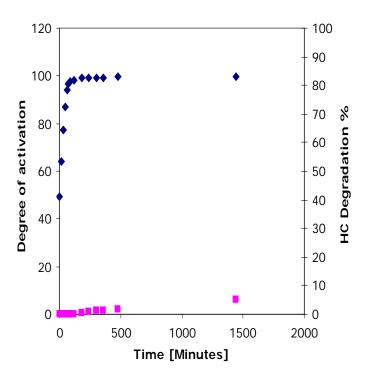
Molecule disintegrates in AA 1 - 290 and AA 291 - 406

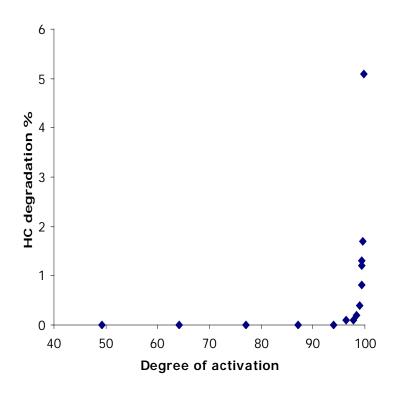
Clip at AA 315 / 316

'3-chain' – molecule stays together held by disulphide bridges



Prolonged activation leads to degradation







Design Space for activation

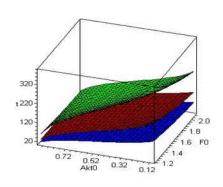
 Any combination of parameters giving a final degree of activation of 90% - 99% given by

$$xb = \frac{10^{pH-7.61}}{1+10^{pH-7.61}}$$
$$t \left[\min \right] = \frac{-\ln \left(\frac{akt0 \cdot (akt-1)}{akt \cdot (akt0-1)} \right)}{0.29 \cdot \frac{L}{g \cdot \min} \cdot xb \cdot F0 \cdot \frac{g}{L}}$$

Where "akt 0" is the initial degree of activation and, "F 0" is the total amount of protein (activated and un-activated)

Boundary conditions

Parameter	Boundary conditions
Degree of activation at t=0	10 – 99 %
Concentration [g/l]	1.4 - 2.1 g/l
pH	6.2 - 6.8
Reaction time	Calculated from the other values
Temperature	20 - 24°C



Green: pH = 6.2Red: pH = 6.5Blue: pH = 6.8



Discussion Topic 1:

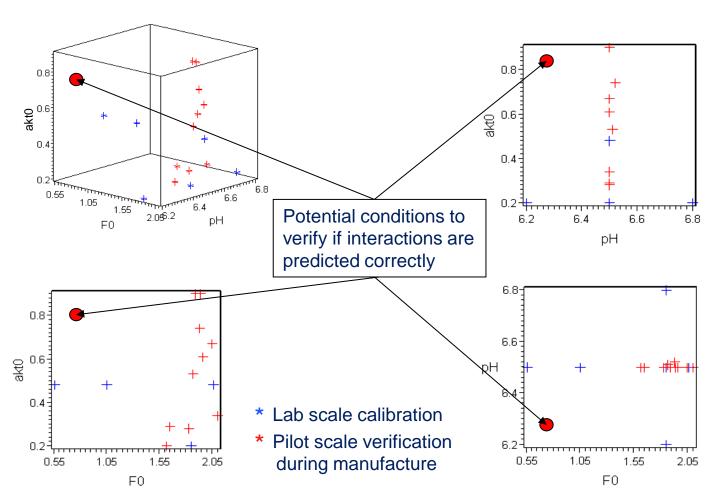
Model verification in laboratory and commercial scale

- The number of verification studies required to confirm the design space
- To which extent can laboratory scale verification studies support the design space in commercial scale?



Discussion Topic 1:

Data for model calibration and verification





Discussion Topic 1:

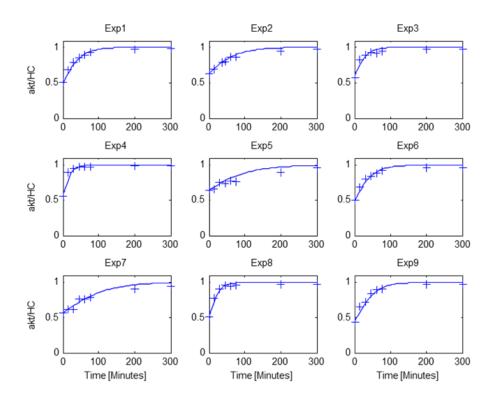
Model verification based on authority feedback

Experiment	pН	Conc	Temp	pН	Conc	Temp
					Factor levels	
1	6.5	1.8	22	0	0	0
2	6.2	2.1	22	-1	1	0
3	6.8	1.4	22	1	-1	0
4	6.8	2.1	22	1	1	0
5	6.2	1.4	22	-1	-1	0
6	6.5	1.8	22	0	0	0
7	6.2	1.4	20	-1	-1	-1
8	6.8	1.8	24	1	0	1
9	6.5	1.8	20	0	0	-1
10	6.5	1.8	24	0	0	1
11	6.2	1.4	22	-1	-1	0
12	6.2	1.4	20	-1	-1	-1
13	6.8	2.1	24	1	1	1
14	6.5	1.8	25	0	0	1.5
15	6.5	1.8	19	0	0	-1.5
16	6.5	1.8	22	0	0	0

- Data from both laboratory and pilot (full) scale were used to verify model parameters
- Activation process is considered scalable as it takes place in a homogeneous solution
- Consequently, the model is primarily verified by experiments in laboratory scale
- Verification of the model at borders of the design space was done by a full factorial design for concentration and pH supplemented by worst case conditions for temperature



Discussion Topic 1: Data from verification of model



- Samples were taken at time intervals for determination of activation and heavy chain degradation
- Activation versus Time (minutes)
 - Lines are model prediction
 - Marks are measured value

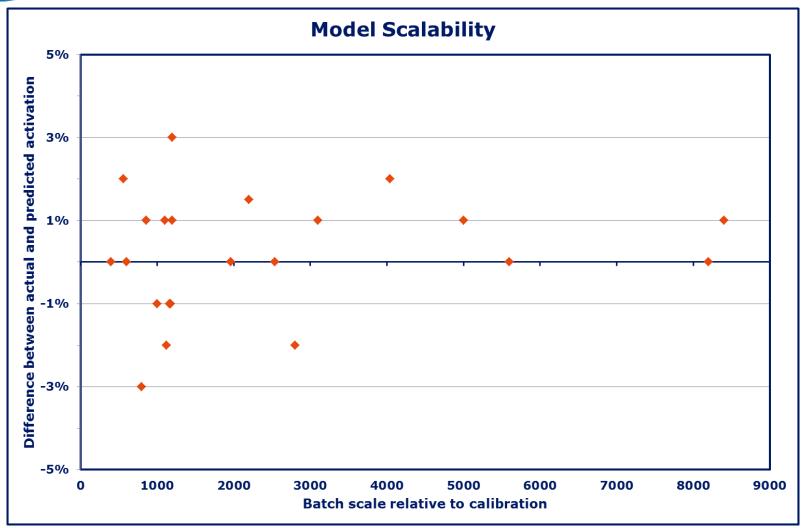


Discussion Topic 1: Scalability

- The activation process is evaluated to be scalable
 Only potential non scalable parameter is time for pH
 adjustment before and after activation pH
 adjustment is done within a time period negligible
 compared to the activation time
- In commercial scale the model will consequently only be verified at normal operation set points (i.e. during manufacture of clinical batches and PPQ)



Predictability in large scale confirms scalability of model





DoE and Small scale studies/linkage studies (regulators position)

- Knowledge of <u>process performance when operated</u> under worst-case conditions for each CQA.
 - Small scale studies are considered essential in order to address multivariate parameters
 - Provide scientific rationale for worst case
 - All DoEs to be provided?
 - Moving outside of worst-case conditions
- The Design Space is limited by the multivariate ranges for all critical process parameters (CPPs).

Experiment	pН	Conc	Temp	pН	Conc	Temp	
					Factor levels		
1	6.5	1.8	22	0	0	0	
2	6.2	2.1	22	-1	1	0	
3	6.8	1.4	22	1	-1	0	
4	6.8	2.1	22	1	1	0	
5	6.2	1.4	22	-1	-1	0	
6	6.5	1.8	22	0	0	0	
7	6.2	1.4	20	-1	-1	-1	
8	6.8	1.8	24	1	0	1	
9	6.5	1.8	20	0	0	-1	
10	6.5	1.8	24	0	0	1	
11	6.2	1.4	22	-1	-1	0	
12	6.2	1.4	20	-1	-1	-1	
13	6.8	2.1	24	1	1	1	
14	14 6.5 1.8 2		25	0	0	1.5	
15	6.5	1.8	19	0	0	-1.5	
16	6.5	1.8	22	0	0	0	

Model verification (regulators position)

- In commercial scale the model will usually only be verified at normal operation set points
- Scalability of the model
 - Model verification at commercial scale under normal operating ranges vs. under worst case conditions?



Discussion Topic 2: Movement within the design space

Can the following options be considered as part of the design space?

- Change of set point for pH within the boundary conditions
- Rearrangement of model to obtain constant process time – adjustable pH



Discussion Topic 2: Further operational freedom

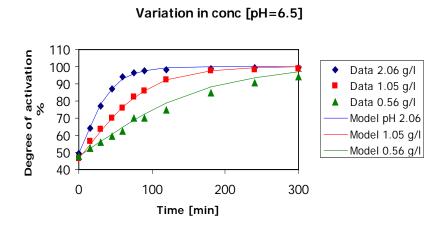
The mechanistic model may be re-arranged in order to obtain constant process time by calculation of process pH for each batch

Model, solved for time	Model, solved for pH
$xb = \frac{10^{pH-7.61}}{1+10^{pH-7.61}}$ $-\ln\left(\frac{akt0\cdot(akt-1)}{akt\cdot(akt0-1)}\right)$ $0.29 \frac{L}{g\cdot\min} \cdot xb \cdot F0 \frac{g}{L}$	$xb = \frac{-\ln\left(\frac{akt0\cdot(akt-1)}{akt\cdot(akt0-1)}\right)}{0.29\frac{L}{g\cdot\min}\cdot t\min\cdot F0\frac{g}{L}}$ $pH \Rightarrow pKa + \log\frac{xb}{1-xb}$



Regulator's Opinion on rearrangement of modelling

Modification of the control of the activation step from fixed pH and variable reaction time to fixed reaction time and variable pH within the design space



Original model	Re-organized model
$xb = \frac{10^{pH-7.61}}{1+10^{pH-7.61}}$ $t[\min] \Rightarrow \frac{-\ln(\frac{akt0\cdot(akt-1)}{akt\cdot(akt0-1)})}{0.29\frac{L}{g\cdot\min}\cdot xb\cdot F0\frac{g}{L}}$	$xb = \frac{-\ln\left(\frac{akt0\cdot(akt-1)}{akt\cdot(akt0-1)}\right)}{0.29\frac{L}{g\cdot\min}\cdot t\min\cdot F0\frac{g}{L}}$ $pH \neq pKa + \log\frac{xb}{1-xb}$



Regulator's Opinion on rearrangement of modelling

- > Acceptable approach for that case
 - > Correlation between pH and reaction time
 - ➤ Valid model (verified)
 - > Seems to be a mathematic calculation
 - > ? Notification of regulatory agency
 - ? Verification of rearranged model
 - At small scale/commercial scale
 - Continued verification



Discussion Topic 3:

Recalibration / adjustment of model constants

Can an optimisation of the model to obtain better agreement between predicted and actual activation be considered as a GMP related life cycle management activity not requiring regulatory actions?



Discussion Topic 3:

Refinement of Model

$$t = \frac{-\ln\left(\frac{akt0\cdot(akt-1)}{akt\cdot(akt0-1)}\right)}{k\cdot xb\cdot F0}$$

Recalibration of the constant *k*?

$$xb = \frac{10^{pH - pKa}}{1 + 10^{pH + pKa}}$$

Recalibration of pKa?



Discussion Topic 3:

Continuous optimisation of model

- Model performance is monitored by comparison of predicted activation with actual activation
 If a systematic deviation is observed several actions may be considered:
 - Adjustment of target activation in the mechanistic model while maintaining approved drug substance specifications
 - Recalibration of model constants
- These adjustments are considered to be within the scope of continuous verification and should be considered GMP



Requirements for Notification of regulatory body

Movement within design space:

A movement within the verified design space does not require regulatory submission.

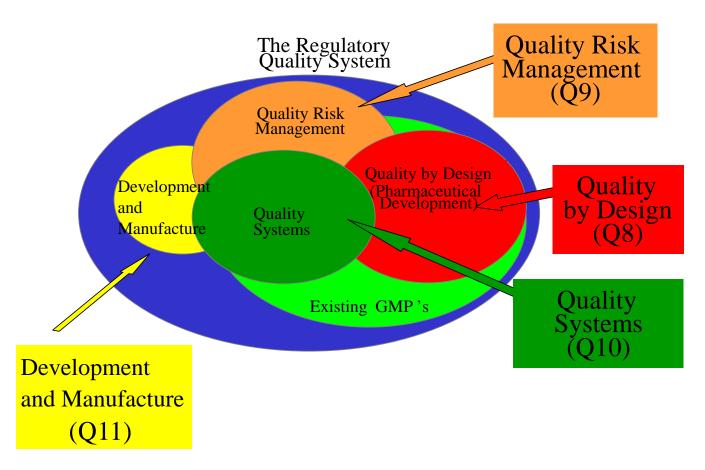
Changed model:

when the recalculated predicted values for the degree of activation for <u>all</u> previous data results in a better or unchanged fit with the actually achieved data, an improvement of the model for the design space is not considered a change requiring a regulatory submission.

 The model validity, criticality of quality attributes and process parameters, the Design Space, and the approach to attribute testing should be revised at certain time points (review period).



GMP Inspections





Refinement of models/Process PQR and APR?

Product Quality Review

• 1.10 Regular periodic or rolling quality reviews of all authorised medicinal products, including export only products, should be conducted with the objective of verifying the consistency of the existing process, the appropriateness of current specifications for both starting materials and finished product, to highlight any trends and to identify product and process improvements. Such reviews should normally be conducted and documented annually, taking into account previous reviews, and should include at least:



EUROPEAN COMMISSION ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Consumer goods Pharmaceuticals

> Brussels, 03 February 2010 ENTR/F/2/AM/an D(2010) 3374

PERIODA PREMIUMA

PALM Plan.

- Testing requirements for target and target range changes to non-CPPs:
- Changes to the acceptable range for non-CPPs for these steps require further justification. The possible outcomes of the assessment and studies are:
- a) If the outcome is acceptable then the acceptable range is extended and the Heath Authority is **notified**.
- b) If the product quality results are not acceptable, additional studies will establish a new acceptable range, or the acceptable range is not extended. If the acceptable range is extended, the <u>Heath Authority will be **notified**</u>.
- If the criticality of the non-CPP changes to a CPP, that information and the updated Design Space are also reported and require Health Authority prior approval.



"Operational parameter" Design Space

B.I.e) Design Space and post-approval change management protocols

B.I.e.1 Introduction of a new design space or extension of an approved design space for the active substance, concerning:		Conditions be fulfilled	to	Documentation to be supplied	Procedure type
a)	One unit operation in the manufacturing process of the active substance including the resulting in- process controls and/or test procedures			1, 2, 3	II
b)	Test procedures for starting materials/reagents/ intermediates and/or the active substance			1, 2, 3	II

Documentation

- 1. The design space has been developed in accordance with the relevant European and international scientific guidelines. Results from product, process and analytical development studies (e.g. interaction of the different parameters forming the design space have to be studied, including risk assessment and multivariate studies, as appropriate) demonstrating where relevant that a systematic mechanistic understanding of material attributes and process parameters to the critical quality attributes of the active substance has been achieved.
- 2. Description of the Design space in tabular format, including the variables (material attributes and process parameters, as appropriate) and their proposed ranges.
- Amendment of the relevant section(s) of the dossier (presented in the EU-CTD format or NTA volume 6B format for veterinary products, as appropriate).



"Operational parameter" Design Space

		Change to in-process tests or limits applied during nufacture of the active substance	Conditions to be fulfilled	Documentation to be supplied	Procedure type	edure					
	a)	Tightening of in-process limits	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2	IA]					
	b)	Addition of a new in-process test and limits	1, 2, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	IA	<u> </u>					
	c)	Deletion of a non-significant in-process test	1, 2, 7	1, 2, 5	IA	-					
	d)	Widening of the approved in-process test limits, which may have a significant effect on the overall quality of the active substance			II						
	e)	Deletion of an in-process test which may have a significant effect on the overall quality of the active substance			П						
	f)	Addition or replacement of an in-process test as a result of a safety or quality issue		1, 2, 3, 4, 6	IB	ational s (e.g.					
 	interaction of the different parameters forming the design space have to be studied, including risk assessment and multivariate studies, as appropriate) demonstrating where relevant that a systematic mechanistic understanding of material attributes and process parameters to the										
	<u>g)</u>	Change to the limits of non critical proce parameters, where the process has been developed and optimised using an enhanced development approach for the particular	7 8, 9		<u>IA</u>	butes NTA					
			брише).								



Regulators viewpoint on additional discussion points

Model verification in laboratory and commercial scale

Movement within the design space

Recalibration / adjustment of model constants

Presentation of Quality Risk Assessments in regulatory file

Control Strategy



Discussion Topic 5:

Criticality of QA and process parameters from regulators viewpoint

- Quality attribute criticality
- approval of Critical Quality Attribute (CQA) is assured through formalised procedures, training, subject matter expert (SME), team review and management
- Impact Scale is developed for designation of CQAs (low (?)- Very high (?).
- CQA Risk Ranking and Filtering (RRF) assessment needs to be reviewed and endorsed by a <u>cross</u> <u>functional committee</u>.
 - Uncertainty scale;
 - Impact scale (activity, PK, Immunogenicity, safety)
 - Risk score (U (1-?) x I(1-?), can it be zero?



Identification of CPPs

- Considers knowledge gained from multivariate studies
- Statistically designed studies conducted on individual unit operations
- Overall process worst-case linkage studies
- Acceptable values for CQAs



Parameter Definition

Critical:

An adjustable parameter (e.g. pH) of the process that should be maintained within a narrow range so as not to affect critical product quality attributes

CPP = Parameter which variation has a <u>practically</u> <u>significant impact</u> on a CQA



Discussion Topic 6: Control strategy

 A "minimum" control system for a QbD product is employed because in some instances, the lack of high criticality quality attributes or overall high process capability may result in the recommendation that control system testing for a product would not include any tests which are useful in monitoring product consistency and for further mitigation risk to patients due to unanticipated source of variation.



Control strategy

- The Control Strategy comprises several elements including:
 - Raw material control
 - Process control via procedural and process parameter control
 - In-process, lot release, and stability testing
 - Testing done as part of process monitoring
 - Testing to demonstrate comparability



RTRT as part of a Control Strategy?

- system of release that gives assurance that the product is of intended quality, based on the information collected during the manufacturing process, through product knowledge and on process understanding and control
- product knowledge and process understanding, the use of quality risk management principles and the application of an appropriate pharmaceutical quality system, as defined within ICH Q8,Q9 and Q10 provide the platform for establishing RTRT mechanisms
- combination of a RTR approach for certain critical quality attributes (CQAs) and a more conventional evaluation for other CQAs (partial RTR).
 - already authorised for use as an optional alternative to routine sterility testing of products terminally sterilised in their final container
 - residual host cell DNA or host cell proteins (HCP), which are typically tested on a routine basis on the active substance, may be evaluated using a routine testing approach and/or a validation approach.



Summary Discussion points

- 1. Model verification in laboratory and commercial scale
- 2. Notification of regulatory bodies
 - Movement within the design space
 - 2. Recalibration / adjustment of model constants
 - Changes to non-CPP...
- Presentation of Quality Risk Assessments in regulatory file
- 4. Criticality of process parameters from regulators viewpoint
- 5. Control strategy/Review period
- 6. Glossary/Terminology
- 7. Others.....