EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

Draft Revised Guideline on Similar Biological Medicinal Products – Relevant Changes

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Proposed Definition

A biosimilar is a biological medicinal product containing a version of the active substance of an already authorised original biological medicinal product (reference medicinal product) (RP).

A biosimilar demonstrates similarity to the reference medicinal product in terms of quality characteristics, biological activity, safety and efficacy based on a comprehensive comparability exercise

Choice of Reference Product

Facilitation of global development

- A non EEA-authorized version of the RP may be used for certain clinical and *in vivo* non-clinical studies (where needed) if
  - Authorised based on similar scientific and regulatory standards
  - Representative of the RP in the EEA
- Bridging data will typically include
  - 3-way analytical comparison (e.g., structural and functional data)

  And may include
  - 3-way PK and/or PD comparison

Tailored development programme

In specific circumstances, e.g. for structurally more simple biological medicinal products, a comparative clinical efficacy study may not be necessary if similarity of physicochemical characteristics and biological activity/potency of the biosimilar and the reference product can be convincingly shown and similar efficacy and safety can clearly be deduced from these data and comparative PK data. Such an approach may have to be supported by additional data, for example in vitro and/or clinical PD data from a comprehensive comparative PD fingerprint approach.

Clarifications

- The scientific principles of such a biosimilar comparability exercise are based on those applied for evaluation of the impact of changes in the manufacturing process of a biological medicinal product (as outlined in ICH Q5E).

Clarifications

- Intended changes to improve efficacy are not compatible with the biosimilarity approach.

- Differences which could have a safety advantage (e.g., lower levels of impurities or reduced immunogenicity) should be explained but may not preclude biosimilarity.

Clarifications

- The EMA evaluates biosimilar medicines for authorisation purposes. The Agency's evaluations do not include recommendations on whether a biosimilar should be used interchangeably with its reference medicine.