

Implementing exposure (PK) - safety (QT) analysis: a Programmer - Statistician Collaboration

Author: Anubrata Kundu

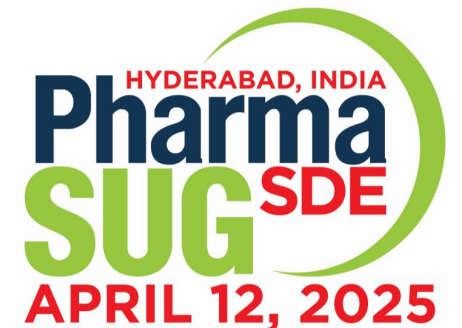
Principal Statistical Programmer

Anubrata completed her Master's degree in Statistics from Delhi University and joined Novartis in 2017, Anubrata specializes in the Oncology (solid tumor) domain and possesses extensive knowledge in SAS, CDISC, and the submission activities

Co-author: Craig Wang

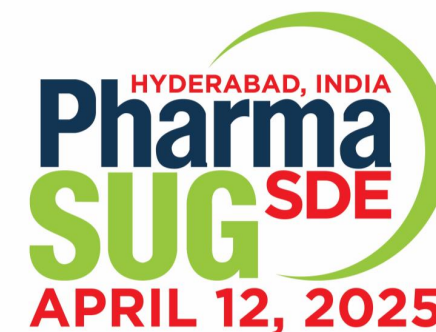
Associate Director Biostatistics

Craig holds a Ph.D in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the University of Zurich. Since joining Novartis in 2019, Craig has worked on multiple pivotal trials and submission activities in Breast Cancer indications.



Disclaimer

- This presentation is based on publicly available information
- The views presented are the views of the presenter, not necessarily those of Novartis
- These slides are intended for educational purposes only and for the personal use of the audience. These slides are not intended for wider distribution outside the intended purpose without presenter approval
- The content of this slide deck is accurate to the best of the presenter's knowledge at the time of production



Agenda


- **Introduction**
- **Guidance on Evaluation of QTc Prolongation**
- **Data aggregation**
- **Model selection**
- **Implementation and results**
- **Overall experience**

Today's Key Focus

- **Building on previous work for consistency and efficiency to support submission**
- **Close collaboration between Programmers and Statisticians**

Introduction

Non-Antiarrhythmic Drugs

Important  identified risk
QT prolongation

Model Informed Drug
Development



Exposure - Response
Integrates data and prior
knowledge to support drug
development and decision-making

The **PK-QTcF analysis**
quantifies the QT
prolongation risk as a
function of drug exposure

- For early breast cancer (eBC), we've assessed PK, PK-QT relationship, and safety data to support new labeling based on the previously approved for metastatic breast cancer (mBC) data.

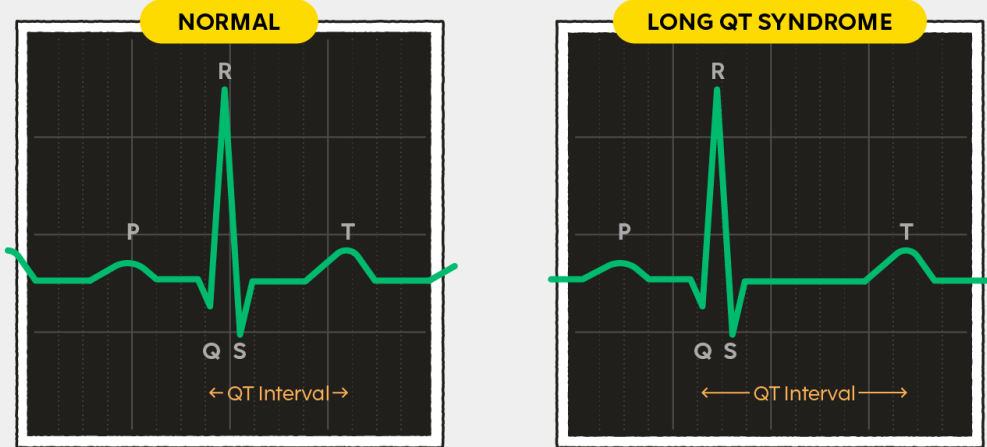
eBC populations compared to mBC

- Better overall health
- Potentially at lower risk

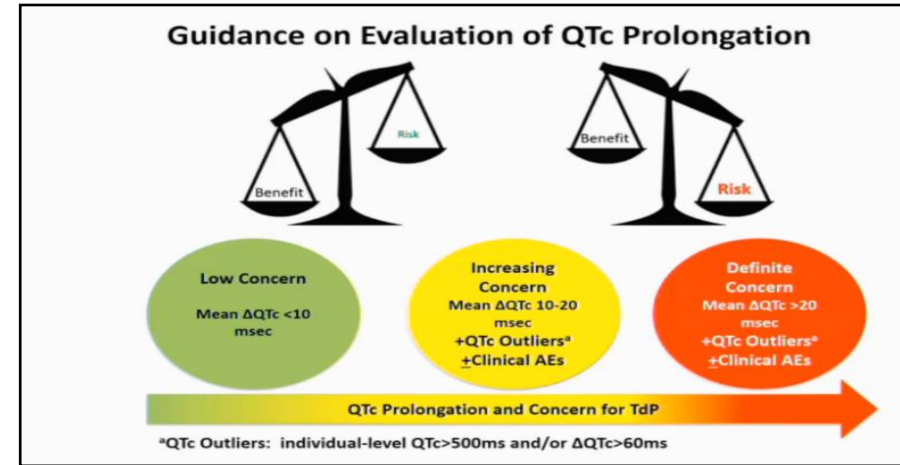
Guidance on Evaluation of QTc Prolongation

A Normal Heartbeat vs. Long QT Syndrome

Long QT syndrome is a medication side effect that can cause your heart to beat abnormally. In severe cases, it can lead to life-threatening arrhythmias. Your healthcare team can review your medication list to help you avoid long QT syndrome.



GoodRx Health



Change from Baseline

Clinical Significance

< 10 ms

Within normal variability; not clinically significant

10-20 ms

May warrant closer monitoring

> 20 ms

Significant

> 60 ms

Highly significant

Pooling

Objectives:

- ❑ Combining data from multiple studies lead to **more precise estimates** of QT prolongation
- ❑ Understand **the benefit - risk** of the drug for different population and combination partners
- ❑ Demonstrate the **consistency** of results across different studies
- ❑ **Regulatory requirements** to include all relevant data

Original submission

Healthy Volunteers (HV) +
Cancer Studies
(mBC + non- BC)

Subsequent submissions

Only Cancer Studies
(mBC + non-BC)

Latest submission

Only Cancer Studies
mBC + non-BC -> aC +
eBC)

mBC: Metastatic breast cancer

non- BC: Non-Breast Cancer

eBC: Early-Breast Cancer

aC:Advanced Cancer

Model Selection Process

Programming checks

Statistician's evaluation

- Developed the output with all the co-variates using SAS
- 32 candidate models were considered
- As per SAP, statistically insignificant covariates were removed
- Developed the final PK-QT model after model selection
- Model checks (residual plots) for the final model

Significant

- combination partner (combination 2 vs. combination 1 vs. no combination)
- population (eBC vs. aC)

Not Significant

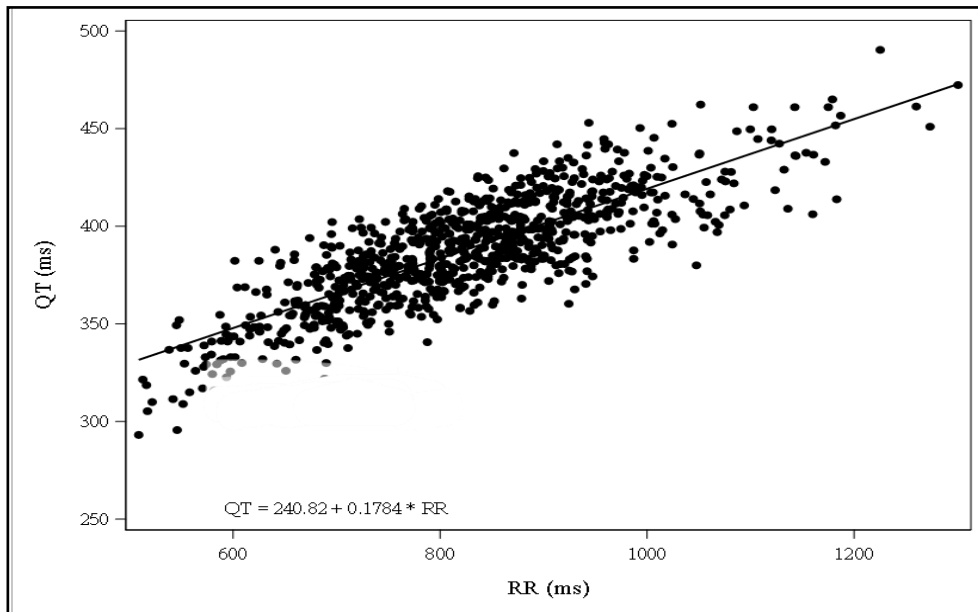
- age group(< 40, ≥ 40 to < 65, ≥ 65)
- sex (male, female)
- race (Asian vs. non-Asian)

Default

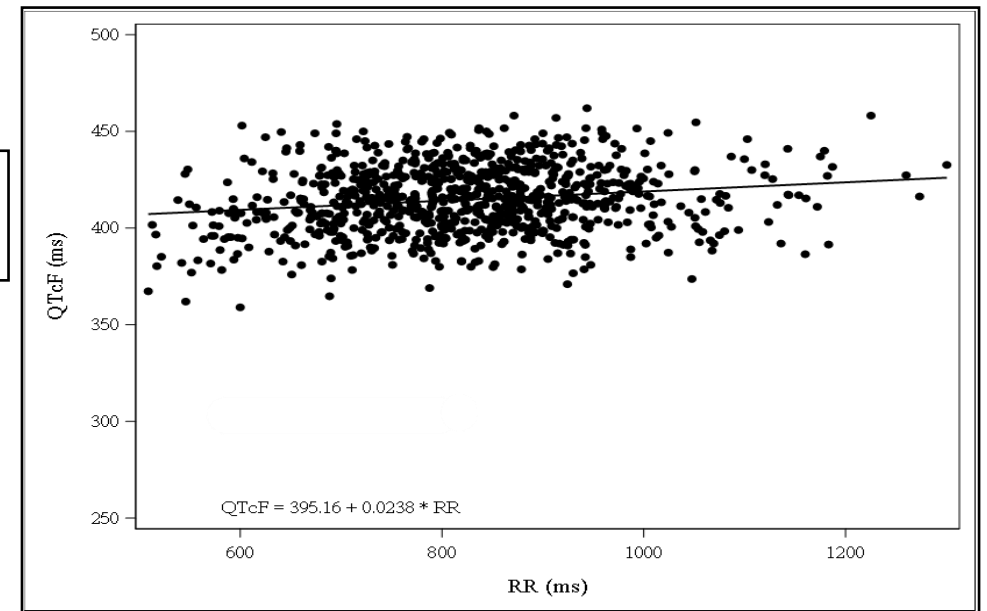
- log transformed concentration
- centered baseline QTcF

Correction Methods:

Before modeling the PK-QTcF relationship, QT and QTcF at baseline were plotted against RR at baseline to assess the appropriateness of the **Fridericia correction**, also suggested in the **ICH E14 guidance**.



$$QTcF = QT / \sqrt[3]{RR}$$



There is no obvious correlation between QTcF and RR, and hence QTcF provided adequate correction for RR.

From SAP to SAS

As per the Statistical Analysis Plan (SAP):

The model is a linear mixed model with subject as a random effect and the mean function in the form of:

$$\Delta QTcF = \log(\text{concentration}/\text{median concentration} + 1) + (\text{baseline QTcF} - \text{median baseline QTcF}) + \text{combination} + \text{population} + \text{combination} * \log(\text{concentration}/\text{median concentration} + 1)$$

Implementation using SAS:

PROC MIXED was specifically designed to fit mixed effect models

```
proc mixed data= pceg0;
  class usubjid popcat(ref="Early breast cancer") combo(ref = "NSAI (letrozole or anastrozole)");
  model chg = laval sbase combo popcat combo*Laval / solution residual alpha=0.05 alphap = 0.1 outpm = estMu;
  random usubjid;
  ods output solutionF = est_ds;
run;
```

- Method = default (REML)
- DDFM = default (CONTAIN)

Results from Final PK-QT model

From code and results to actionable insights

Parameter	Estimate (95% CI)	Standard error	Pr > t
Intercept	1.76 (-0.70, 4.21)	1.25	0.160
.....
Combination 1	-0.60 (-2.86, 1.66)	1.15	0.603
Combination 2	.		
No combination	-7.84 (-10.25, -5.42)	1.23	<.001
Early breast cancer	.		
Non-early breast cancer	5.37 (2.85, 7.90)	1.29	<.001

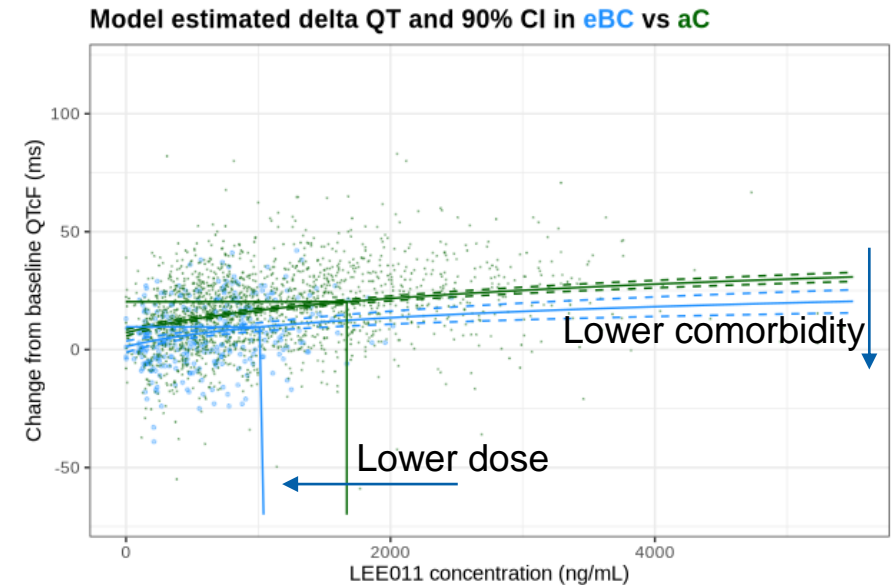
- ❑ Combination partners, and populations significantly influenced Δ QTcF. The final PK-QT model showed a lower mean QTcF increase in early breast cancer patients compared to advanced patients

Concentration level	Concentration (ng/mL)	Baseline QTcF (ms)	Estimated mean QTcF change from baseline (ms) (90% CI)
Early breast cancer patients			
400 mg Cmax combo		419.0	
Geo-mean	1010		10.0 (8.02, 11.91)
Metastatic breast cancer patients			
600 mg Cmax combo		411.0	
Geo-mean	1670		20.7 (19.76, 21.63)

- ❑ The lower dose in early/adjuvant settings, and combined with lower disease burden, is expected to have fewer dose-dependent cardiac toxicities

Reinforce the Robustness of PK-QT modelling in Early Breast Cancer

- Aligned with approved USPI for mBC (metastatic breast cancer) 20.7 ms for mBC in new model vs. 22.0 ms in USPI
- Aligned with observed QTcF safety data from eBC (early breast cancer) 10.0ms in new model vs. 9.4ms at 2 hours / 11.4ms at 4 hours post-dose in eBC



- ❑ The updated model's mean Δ QTcF estimates demonstrate model consistency with both historical and current data

USPI : United States Prescribing Information

1 Garnett C, et al. Scientific white paper on concentration-QTc modeling. J Pharmacokinet Pharmacodyn. 2018

Takeaway Messages

- **Cross functional collaboration and discussion with subject matter experts**
- **Early breast cancer patients enable more favorable label claims for safety compared to metastatic breast cancer patients**
- **Data-driven methods identified a more tolerable QT safety profile in early breast cancer, supporting drug approval and label extension**

PK-QT model results included in the USPI, TGA, Swissmedic label

Thank you

Name: Anubrata Kundu
Organization: Novartis
City, State: Hyderabad, Telangana
E-mail: anubrata.kundu@novartis.com

