KCE TRIALS PROGRAMME

Study COV20-1279

The DAWN antivirals trial for ambulatory COVID-19 patients

Federaal Kenniscentrum voor de Gezondheidszorg
Centre Fédéral d'Expertise des Soins de Santé
Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre

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KCE Trials Reply to CSR conclusions regarding the level of study funding

Background

The last conclusion in the CSR (published on KCE website) of the above mentioned study is: "This will require funders to acknowledge that primary care research comes with its own complexities that should be funded appropriately in order to build a sufficiently large sponsor team."

KCE Trials wishes to reply to this statement.

KCE Trials has a history of supporting and funding GP trials and has a specific way of calculating the costs. This includes allocating budget to collaborating Academic Centres for General Practice (Academisch Centrum Huisartsgeneeskunde/ Centre Académique de Médecine Générale) to support their recruiting GPs in support of the Sponsor team. Three KCE Trials studies in primary care have already been funded with this model (ARON, Big Bird, Pepper).

Planned Budget

The contract for the DAWN GP study included a budget of **€ 2,585 million** with an initial sample size of 1,306 individuals. The split was roughly € 1,083K 'Sponsor costs' (including € 112K for collaborating Academic Centre of general practice to recruit and support their GPs), € 483K 'Drug costs' comprising IMP provision, labelling and delivery and € 1,019K 'Site costs' which was comprised of € 217K for the recruiting GPs and € 801K for study nurses to help the GPs include participants as the study was run following a decentralised model due to infection risks and other pandemic constraints (participants isolating at home) e.g. performing the remote consent process, doing clinical assessments and collecting data. Details are provided in the table below. The payment schedule is milestone based. Except for a fixed % at contract signature and upon delivery of the Clinical Study Report and Manuscript, the milestones are based on recruitment targets.

Timelines

Application initially submitted	17/09/2020	First participant randomised (FPI)	21/06/2021
Interim agreement for IMP production	17/12/2020	Last Participant Last Visit (LPLV)	12/08/2022
KCE-Sponsor contract signed	3/03/2021	Draft Clinical Study Report received	31/05/2023

In April 2021 the protocol was amended to add a co-primary endpoint of first self-reported recovery. In February 2022 the protocol was amendment to add an arm with molnupiravir and to change the primary endpoint to recovery only which reduced the sample size required from 1306 to 474 participants.

Budget Spent

KCE Trials paid a total of **€ 1,127,781** for this study where 44 participants were randomized (roughly with a split of € 493K 'Sponsor costs', € 322K 'Drug costs' comprising IMP provision, labelling and delivery and € 312K 'Site costs' comprising € 8K for the GPs and € 304K Study nurse time (through interim agencies)*, see details below. Without the cost of the drug provision, this corresponds to an average cost of € 18,314 per participant randomized.

* Study nurse time was planned to support the sites/GPs and perform assessments on the participants however due to lack of capacity, the sponsor also used this resource to perform sponsor tasks such administration of the Investigator Study File and certain project management tasks.

Conclusion from KCE Trials

While acknowledging the complexity of the study and difficulty of the fast changing pandemic situation, KCE Trials considers that the allocated budget should have been sufficient to perform the trial, providing a robust infrastructure including experienced personnel to conduct clinical trials in primary care was present as suggested in the application for obtaining the funding for this trial.

Planned versus spent budget overview for Study COV20-1279

	Planned			Spent
Project Design and Set up	€ 87,750.00	Sponsor costs	€ 1,083,355.53	€ 493,270.51
Regulatory and Ethics Review	€ 16,376.79			
Monitoring	€ 188,027.45			
Quality Assurance	€ 7,020.00			
TMF Handling & Administration	€ 80,868.27			
Safety	€ 59,539.79			
Data Management	€ 304,972.30			
Statistics, report and publicatior	€ 81,900.00			
Project Management	€ 140,676.99			
Academic Centre costs	€ 112,086.29			
Patient and Public Involvement	€ 4,137.63			
Site Costs (GPs)	€ 217,618.00	Site costs	€ 1,019,091.00	€ 8,570.00
Study nurse time*	€ 801,473.00			€ 303,965.80
IMP manufacture and handling	€ 461,590.00	Drug costs	€ 482,550.20	€ 321,975.49
External vendors	€ 20,960.20			
Overall Cost total	**€ 2,584,996.73**		**€ 2,584,996.73**	**€ 1,127,781.80**
Number of participants			1,306	44
Cost per participant			1,979.32 €	25,631.40 €
Cost per participant - IMP costs			1,609.84 €	18,313.78 €

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