

OPTIMUM DOSING REGIMEN SELECTION FOR A TARGET DRUG CONCENTRATION

Kabir Soeny, Barbara Bogacka
Queen Mary, University of London

Byron Jones, Thomas Bouillon
Novartis Pharma AG

Introduction

Efficient Dosing Regimens

Notation

Criteria of Efficiency

Efficient Dosing Algorithm

Applications and Extensions

Example: One-compartment Model

Extension: Combination of Two Drugs

Example: Coartem[®]

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Conclusions

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- ▶ Most physicians rely on the prescription information for choosing dosing regimens, so the ethical responsibility for supplying an optimal dosing regimen remains largely with pharmaceutical companies.
- ▶ In the past, the pharmaceutical industry was predominantly interested in achieving approval based on differentiation of the drug against placebo or an active comparator, neglecting the optimization of dosing regimens.

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- ▶ In several cases, this initial dose had to be lowered after marketing of the drug, in some cases, the entire program was stopped after unacceptable adverse effects within the high dose range occurred.
- ▶ Provision of the **minimal clinical effective dose**, the **maximum safe dose** and the **optimal dose** by indication not only improves the chances of a successful approval, but can cure the disease more effectively.

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- ▶ Here we present an algorithm for optimization of loading and maintenance doses
 - ▶ of single drugs
 - ▶ and two combined drugs, where the combination ratio is also optimized.

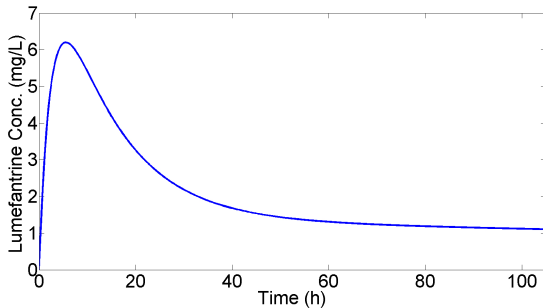
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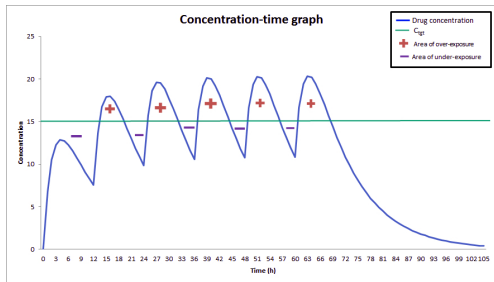
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- ▶ This is achieved based on a target concentration or a therapeutic concentration window.
- ▶ We also present a design for an adaptive clinical trial and some simulation studies.

Introduction



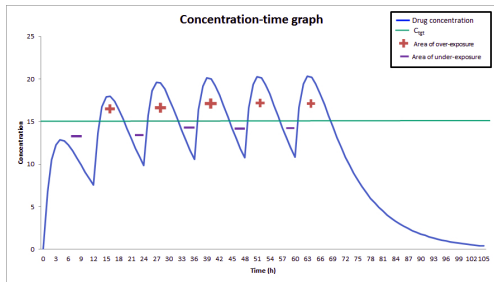
Concentration of a drug in blood after administering a single dose.

Introduction



The concentration of a drug with multiple dosing.

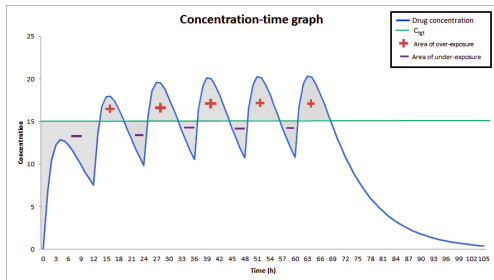
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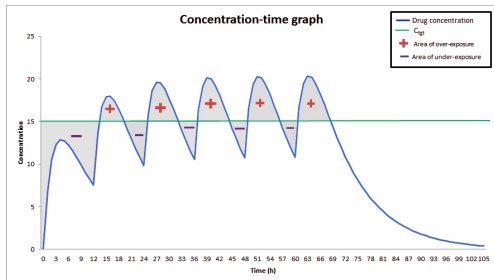
The areas of under-exposure are marked with '-' sign and over-exposure are marked with '+' sign. The green line represents the **target concentration** of the drug that is desired to be maintained.

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We start assuming that the PK model is known and that we know the estimates of the model parameters.

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$\mathbf{D} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ denotes a vector of doses d_i that are administered at n occasions, a **dosing regimen**.

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Functions $\Delta_i : \mathcal{D} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^i$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, are such that,

$$\Delta_i(d_1, \dots, d_i) = \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} |C(t, d_1, \dots, d_i) - C_{tgt}| dt,$$

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We denote by $\mathbf{\Delta} = (\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \dots, \Delta_n)$ the vector of Δ -functions.

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Definition (φ_A -efficiency)

A regimen $\mathbf{D}^* = (d_1^*, \dots, d_n^*) \in \mathcal{D}$ is called φ_A -efficient if the function

$$\varphi_A(\Delta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_i$$

is minimized by \mathbf{D}^* or equivalently

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_i^* \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta_i$$

for all $\mathbf{D} \in \mathcal{D}$, where $\Delta_i^* = \Delta_i(d_1^*, \dots, d_i^*)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Efficient Dosing Algorithm

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Let

$$\mathbf{L}_i^k = \{d_{i1}^k, d_{i2}^k, d_{i3}^k\}$$

be the set of 3 possible doses (*dose sets*) that can be administered at the i th occasion, $i = 1, \dots, n$, and k -th iteration, $k = 1, 2, \dots, w$.

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\mathbf{D}^1 is the dosing regimen which minimizes $\varphi(\Delta)$.

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$$L_i^k = \left\{ \epsilon \times d_{i3}^{k-1}, d_{i3}^{k-1}, \min \left(\frac{d_{i3}^{k-1}}{\epsilon}, d_{max} \right) \right\}.$$

where $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ is a fixed constant, called the *resolution*.

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The algorithm is terminated at w^{th} iteration if

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By choosing appropriate resolution, \mathbf{D}^w can be driven as close as required to the most efficient dosing regimen \mathbf{D}^* .

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Properties

Theorem

The ED Algorithm converges to the true unknown φ -efficient dosing regimen D^ when the resolution tends to 1, that is*

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The ED Algorithm converges to the true unknown φ -efficient dosing regimen \mathbf{D}^ when the resolution tends to 1, that is*

$$\epsilon \rightarrow 1 \Rightarrow \mathbf{D}^w \rightarrow \mathbf{D}^*.$$

The major argument in the proof is that the unknown true optimal doses d_i^* lie in the respective intervals, that is

$$d_i^* \in \left(\epsilon d_i^w, \min \left\{ \frac{d_i^w}{\epsilon}, d_{max} \right\} \right).$$

Efficient Dosing Algorithm

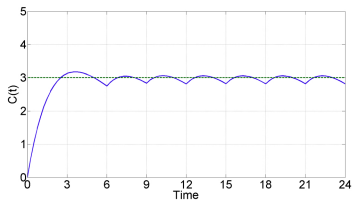
Properties

We can decrease the under- and over-exposure by planning more frequent dosing.

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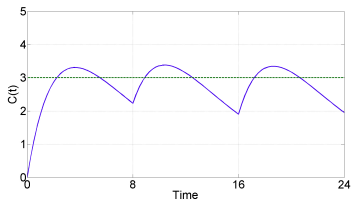
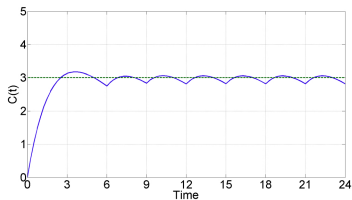
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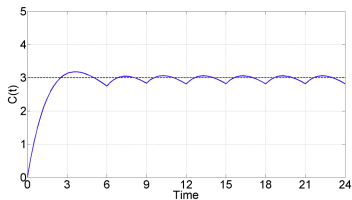
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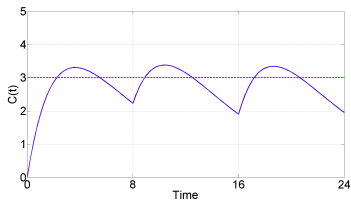
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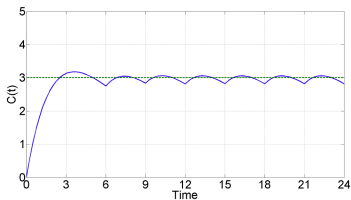


$C(t)$ when $\tau = 8$ h.

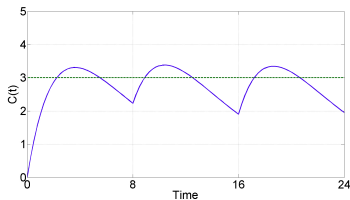
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$$C(t) \text{ when } \tau = 3\text{h.}$$
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$$C(t, d) = \frac{FdK_a}{V(K_a - K_e)}(e^{-K_e t} - e^{-K_a t}),$$

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K_a and K_e denote the absorption and elimination rate constants,

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For the calculations we take the following estimates of the parameters

$$(\hat{K}_a, \hat{K}_e, \hat{V}, \hat{F}) = (0.37 h^{-1}, 0.2 h^{-1}, 24 L, 0.95).$$

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$$(\hat{K}_a, \hat{K}_e, \hat{V}, \hat{F}) = (0.37 \text{ h}^{-1}, 0.2 \text{ h}^{-1}, 24 \text{ L}, 0.95).$$

Also, $C_{tgt} = 3 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ and $d_{max} = 250 \text{ mg}$ and we consider $n = 7$ occasions to administer the drug with $\tau_j = 6 \text{ h}, j = 1, \dots, 7$ so that $T = 42$.

Efficient Dosing Algorithm

Example: one-compartment model

At resolution of $\epsilon = 0.99$, φ_A -efficient dosing regimen is

$$\mathbf{D} = (163.87, 69.04, 92.12, 87.00, 87.88, 88.49, 87.88).$$

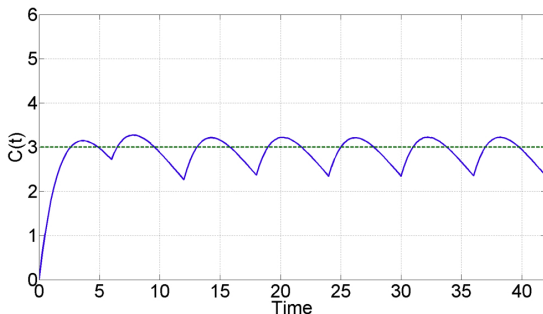
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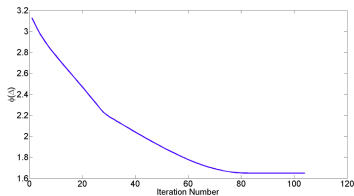
The concentration profile is shown below.



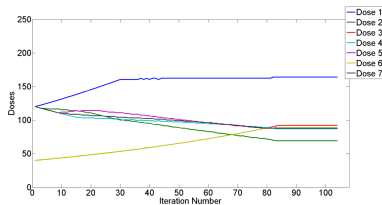
Efficient Dosing Algorithm

Example: one-compartment model

The algorithm converged in 84 iterations ($\epsilon = 0.99$).



Convergence of $\phi_A(\Delta)$.



Convergence of $\mathbf{D} = (d_1, \dots, d_7)$.

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$$D^A + D^B = D^A(1 + \theta)$$

- ▶ We minimize

$$\varphi^C(\Delta) = \omega\varphi_A^A(\Delta) + (1 - \omega)\varphi_A^B(\Delta)$$

where ω is a weighting constant.

Extension: Combination of two drugs

Example: Coartem[®]

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This is a combination of two drugs:

1. Artemether (A)
2. Lumefantrine (B)

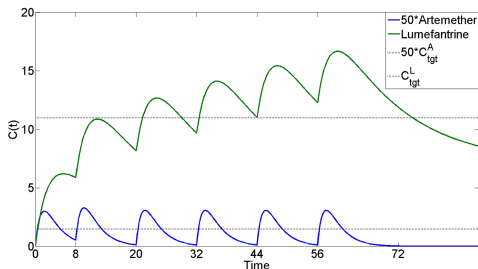
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The current dosing regimen with the ration of $\theta = 6$ over three days gives a typical concentration profile as shown in the figure below.



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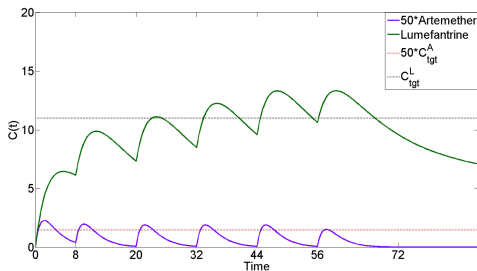
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The Figure below shows the concentration profile of the two drugs for the optimum regimen D_I^* , with $\theta^* = 8.24$.



Extension: Combination of two drugs

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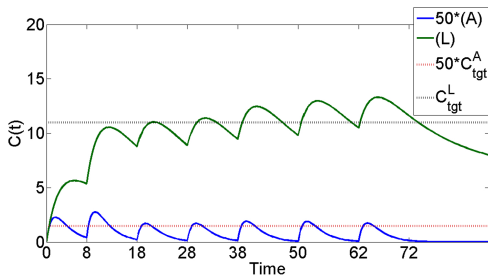
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Alternative Regimen II The *Efficient Dosing Algorithm* is applied with a different dosing schedule, 7 doses instead of 6 over the period of three days.

The Figure below shows the concentration profile of the two drugs for the optimum regimen D_{II}^* , with $\theta^* = 7.21$.



Extension: Combination of two drugs

Example: Coartem[®]

Comparison of the dosing regimens and the combination ratios.

Dosing Regimen	θ^*	ϕ^C
$D^A = (80.0, 80.0, 80.0, 80.0, 80.0, 80.0)$		
$D^B = (480.0, 480.0, 480.0, 480.0, 480.0, 480.0)$	6.00	135.2
$D_I^{A*} = (60.6, 46.7, 49.6, 49.6, 49.4, 39.3)$		
$D_I^{B*} = (499.7, 384.8, 408.7, 408.7, 407.3, 324.4)$	8.24	106.8
$D_{II}^{A*} = (60.6, 67.7, 42.2, 43.8, 48.9, 49.4, 45.1)$		
$D_{II}^{B*} = (437.2, 488.3, 304.5, 315.9, 352.8, 356.4, 325.6)$	7.21	80.7

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Population PK Model

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Population PK Model

We consider the compartment model:

$$C(t, d, \beta) = \frac{dK_a}{V(K_a - K_e)}(e^{-K_e t} - e^{-K_a t}),$$

where $\beta = (K_a, K_e, V)$ are unknown parameters,

K_a is the absorption rate constant,

K_e is the elimination rate constant,

V is the volume of distribution.

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Population PK Model

We consider the compartment model:

$$C(t, d, \beta) = \frac{dK_a}{V(K_a - K_e)}(e^{-K_e t} - e^{-K_a t}),$$

where $\beta = (K_a, K_e, V)$ are unknown parameters,

K_a is the absorption rate constant,

K_e is the elimination rate constant,

V is the volume of distribution.

The aim is to maintain a target concentration,

$$C_{tgt} = 5\text{mg/L} \quad \text{for} \quad T = 40\text{h}$$

by administering $n = 5$ doses at $t_k^* = 0, 8, 16, 24, 32$ h.

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Population PK model

We take the stage 1 model as

$$y_{ij} = C(t_{ij}, \mathbf{d}_i, \beta_j) \exp\{e_{ij}\}, \quad \mathbf{d}_i = (d_1, \dots, d_i), \quad \beta_j = (K_{aj}, K_{ej}, V_j)$$

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and the stage 2 model as

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_{aj} \\ K_{ej} \\ V_j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} K_a \exp\{b_{K_{aj}}\} \\ K_e \exp\{b_{K_{ej}}\} \\ V \exp\{b_{V_j}\} \end{pmatrix},$$

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where

$$e_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \quad \mathbf{b}_j = \begin{pmatrix} b_{K_{aj}} \\ b_{K_{ej}} \\ b_{V_j} \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}_3(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{\Omega})$$

and e_{ij} are independent from \mathbf{b}_j .

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Adaptive Clinical Trial

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Population Optimum Dose Regimen

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- Step 6** Analyze the gathered data to recommend the best possible dosing regimen.

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Adaptive Clinical Trial: Simulation Study

For the simulation we assume the true population parameters be $\beta = (K_a, K_e, V) = (.85, .15, 17)$, $\sigma^2 = .01$ and

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} .015 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & .015 & .005 \\ 0 & .005 & .005 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

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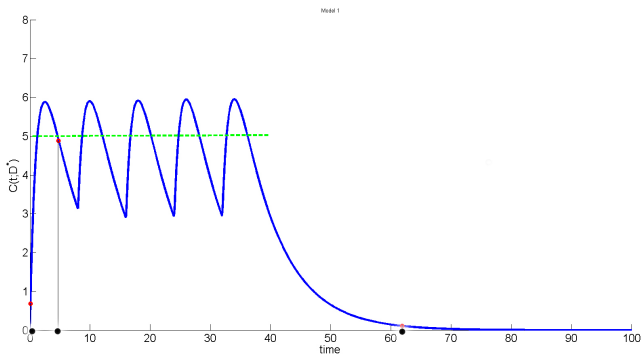
Based on these parameters, the efficient dose regimen is:

$$D^* = (145, 90, 95, 95, 95)$$

with $\varphi(\Delta_5^*) = 7.13$.

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

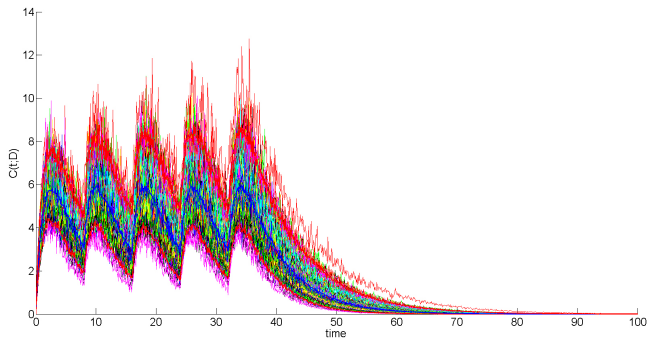
Adaptive Clinical Trial: Simulation Study



The dosing regimen for the true model parameters
and the D-optimum sampling times $\xi^* = \{0.10, 4.77, 61.88\}$

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Population Variability



Simulated profiles of concentration of a 100 patients

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Adaptive Clinical Trial: Simulation Study

We assume that some prior knowledge about the PK parameters and population variability is available from previous studies.

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

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Here we have $\beta_0 = (1.5, .25, 13)^T$, $\sigma_0^2 = .5$ and

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The parameters to be estimated are

$$\Psi_k = (\beta_k, \omega_k, \sigma_k^2)$$

where $\omega_k = (\omega_{11_k}, \omega_{22_k}, \omega_{33_k}, \omega_{23_k})$.

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Adaptive Clinical Trial: Stopping Rules

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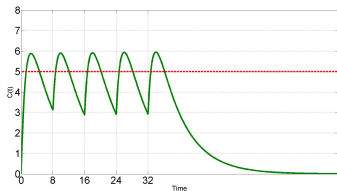
Adaptive Clinical Trial: Stopping Rules

Stopping Rules

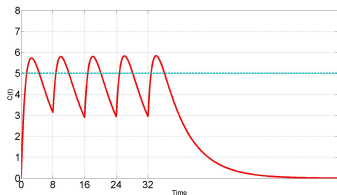
- 1 The trial is terminated when the same dose regimen gets administered to two successive cohorts.
- 2 The trial is terminated at the k^{th} iteration when the dose regimen for the next cohort coincides with D^* .
- 3 The trial is terminated at the k^{th} iteration if all the elements of Ψ_k are within 10% of the true parameters.

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

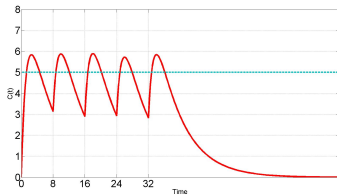
Results of the Simulated Adaptive Clinical Trial



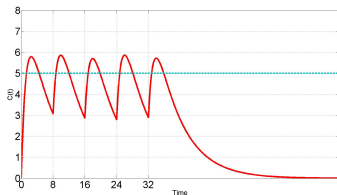
For true parameters: $D = (145, 90, 95, 95, 95)^T$



Stopping Rule 2: $D_5 = (145, 90, 95, 95, 95)^T$



Stopping Rule 1: $D_8 = (145, 90, 95, 90, 95)^T$



Stopping Rule 3: $D_{12} = (135, 85, 85, 90, 85)^T$

Population Optimum Dose Regimen

Software used

- ▶ RELME algorithm in MatLab is used for estimation of PK parameters at each stage of the trial,
- ▶ D-optimality criterion is used to determine the optimal blood sampling times, using the software PopED.

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Conclusions

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- ▶ Continuous or discrete set of dose levels can be used.
- ▶ Combining population D-optimum design for blood sampling with the ϕ_A -optimum dose regimen selection in an adaptive trial gives good results.
- ▶ Farther work includes incorporation of covariates to make the dose regimen more suitable for a stratified population.

Conclusions

Paracelsus

All things are poison, and nothing is without poison; only the dose permits something not to be poisonous.

Conclusions

Paracelsus

All things are poison, and nothing is without poison; only the dose permits something not to be poisonous.



Paracelsus (Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, 1493-1541) was a Swiss German Renaissance physician, botanist, alchemist, astrologer, and general occultist.

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THANK YOU