Collection of Drug Adverse Events in Pre-Registrational Access Programs: What Relevant Comparison to Controlled Studies? Analysis of the French ATU Cohort for Kaletra®

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METHODS

Data were mainly collected on the R-CASE Case Report Forms (Provisions d’Obtention Temporaires) distributed to attending physicians at the time of patient enrolment:

• Adverse Event Collection Form
• Treatment Discontinuation Form when adverse events were noted
• Follow-up Form when adverse events were noted.

Adverse events seriousness criteria, as defined in the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) Guidelines, are summarized as follows:

Serious: The adverse event causes the patient discomfort and interrupts the patient’s normal activities.

Mild: The adverse event causes considerable discomfort with the patient’s normal activities, and it may be impossible to be discontinued.

In the 1969 patients that participated, the majority (79.5%) were male with a mean age of 42 years. Additionally, 51.3% of these patients had previously experienced at least one CDC Class C (AIDS-defining) event. Baseline demographic and disease characteristics are presented in Table 1.

RESULTS

The first patient initiated Kaletra® therapy in the ATU program on March 23, 2000. As of April 16, 2001, the mean duration of follow-up for subjects who have initiated dosing with Kaletra® in the ATU program is summarized in Figure 1.

The most frequently reported adverse events were diarrhea, nausea, weight loss, hyperbilirubinemia, pruritus, arthralgia, and fever. The majority of the adverse events were related to the digestive system or the body as a whole. These adverse events occurred in <23.0% of the patient population, as summarized in Table 2.

CONCLUSIONS

The safety profile observed in the ATU program was comparable to that seen in Phase III clinical trials. Adverse events in the ATU program were infrequent and rarely resulted in study interruption or discontinuation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All adverse events were voluntarily reported to the investigator the day before study discontinuation.