

*Contains Nonbinding Recommendations*

*Draft – Not for Implementation*

## **Draft Guidance on Ciprofloxacin; Dexamethasone**

**August 2024**

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<b>Active Ingredients:</b>	Ciprofloxacin; Dexamethasone
<b>Dosage Form:</b>	Suspension/drops
<b>Route:</b>	Otic
<b>Strength:</b>	0.3%; 0.1%
<b>Recommended Studies:</b>	Two options: (1) two in vitro studies with supportive comparative characterization studies, or (2) two comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence studies

### **I. Option 1: Two in vitro studies with supportive comparative characterization studies**

To demonstrate bioequivalence by this option, the test product should be qualitatively (Q1)<sup>1</sup> and quantitatively (Q2)<sup>2</sup> the same as the reference listed drug (RLD).

#### **Comparative characterization studies:**

Comparative physicochemical characterization of the test product and reference standard (RS) products. The comparative study should be performed on at least three batches of both the test product<sup>3</sup> and RS and should include:

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<sup>1</sup> Q1 (Qualitative sameness) means that the test product uses the same inactive ingredient(s) as the RLD.

<sup>2</sup> Q2 (Quantitative sameness) means that concentrations of the inactive ingredient(s) used in the test product are within ±5% of those used in the RLD.

<sup>3</sup> The manufacturing process for the exhibit batches should be reflective of the manufacturing process to be utilized for commercial batches.

- a. Crystalline habit of dexamethasone
- b. Appearance
- c. pH
- d. Specific gravity
- e. Osmolality
- f. Viscosity
- g. Re-dispersibility (time required to re-disperse the formulation)
- h. Soluble fraction of dexamethasone in the finished drug product

**Two in vitro bioequivalence studies:**

1. Type of study: Drug particle and particle size distribution of dexamethasone  
 Design: In vitro bioequivalence study on three batches of both test and RS products  
 Strength: 0.1%  
 Additional comments: The sample preparation method and selected particle sizing methodology should be adequately optimized and validated to demonstrate the adequacy of the selected method in accurately and reliably identifying and measuring the size of the drug particles. Prospective applicant should perform size characterization at different dilution conditions as part of method development to demonstrate the impact of dilution. Full particle size distribution profiles representative of all test product and RS product batches tested should be submitted as supporting information.

**Parameters to measure:**  $D_{50}$  and SPAN  $[(D_{90}-D_{10})/D_{50}]$

**Bioequivalence based on (95% upper confidence bound):** Population bioequivalence (PBE) analysis of the  $D_{50}$  and SPAN. Prospective applicants should provide no less than 10 datasets from 3 batches each of the test and RS products to be used in the PBE analysis. For additional information on PBE statistical analysis, refer to the most recent version of the FDA product-specific guidance on *Budesonide Inhalation Suspension* (NDA 020929).<sup>a</sup>

2. Type of study: Comparative in vitro release testing (IVRT) of dexamethasone  
 Design: Should be performed on 3 batches of both test and RS products using at least 12 units from each batch  
 Strengths: 0.1%  
 Additional comments: The IVRT method study should include information on the method development and validation to detect potential formulation differences and capture the complete release profile of dexamethasone.

**Bioequivalence based on:** Comparative analysis of release profiles should be established using an appropriate statistical method (e.g., model independent approach using similarity factor ( $f_2$ )). For more information on calculation of  $f_2$  factor, refer to the most recent version of the FDA guidance for industry on *Dissolution Testing of Immediate Release Solid Oral Dosage Forms*.<sup>b</sup>

## II. Option 2: Two comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence studies

Comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence studies are requested for any generic ciprofloxacin; dexamethasone (0.3%; 0.1%) otic suspension that is not Q1 and/or Q2 with respect to preservative, buffer, substance to adjust tonicity or thickening agent, compared to that of the RLD, or unacceptable data from in vitro studies recommended in Option 1.

1. Type of study: Comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence study  
Design: Randomized, double-blind, parallel, placebo-controlled, in vivo  
Strength: 0.3%; 0.1%  
Subjects: Males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females with acute otitis externa  
Additional comments: Specific recommendations are provided below.
2. Type of study: Comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence study  
Design: Randomized, double-blind, parallel, in vivo  
Strength: 0.3%; 0.1%  
Subjects: Males and females aged 6 months and older with tympanostomy tubes with acute otitis media  
Additional comments: Specific recommendations are provided below.

**Analyte to measure:** Not applicable

**Bioequivalence based on (90% CI):** Clinical endpoint for both studies

**Additional comments regarding the comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence study #1 in males and non-pregnant, non-lactating females with acute otitis externa:**

1. FDA recommends conducting a comparative clinical endpoint bioequivalence study in the treatment of acute otitis externa comparing the test product versus the RS and vehicle control, each administered as 4 drops instilled into the affected ear twice daily (about 12 hours apart, for example, at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.) for 7 days (1 week). Prior to administration, the suspension should be warmed by holding the bottle in the hand for 1-2 minutes and shaken well immediately before using. The subject should lie with the affected ear upward, then the drops should be instilled. This position should be maintained for 60 seconds to facilitate penetration of the drops into the ear canal. In the event of bilateral acute otitis externa, both ears should be treated; however, the ear with the more severe signs and symptoms at baseline, designated as the “study ear”, will be used for the evaluations throughout the course of the study. The two co-primary endpoints are clinical cure (defined as complete resolution of signs and symptoms with no further requirement for antimicrobial therapy) and time to end of pain, both determined at the test of cure visit on study day 14-21 (i.e., 7-14 days after the end of treatment).
2. A placebo control arm is recommended to demonstrate that the test product and RS are active and as a parameter to establish that the study is sufficiently sensitive to detect differences between products.

3. FDA has evaluated the need for a placebo arm in bioequivalence studies for this indication. Because some proportion of enrolled subjects will have spontaneous resolution of otitis externa, FDA recommends a placebo-controlled study with an early-escape clause stating that subjects who do not respond to therapy after 48 hours will receive standard therapy. We believe that a placebo-controlled trial is ethically acceptable, with the inclusion of an escape clause. In addition, by limiting the study population to adults who are able to consent to their own participation, the risk of subjecting young children to harmful side effects or to prolonged pain will be avoided.
4. Inclusion criteria (the sponsor may add additional criteria):
  - a. Male or non-pregnant, non-lactating females aged 18 to 65 years.
  - b. Clinical diagnosis of acute bacterial otitis externa with signs and symptoms of otalgia, edema, and tenderness.
  - c. Culture-based diagnosis of acute bacterial otitis externa (i.e., positive baseline bacterial culture for the presence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* or *Staphylococcus aureus*). As the results of the baseline bacterial culture may not be known until after the subject has completed treatment, subjects who meet all the other Inclusion/Exclusion criteria may be enrolled in the study pending the results of the bacterial culture. A baseline bacterial culture negative for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* will exclude the subject from the Per Protocol (PP) and modified intent-to-treat (mITT) analyses.
5. Exclusion criteria (the sponsor may add additional criteria):
  - a. Females who are pregnant, breast feeding, or who wish to become pregnant during the study period.
  - b. Signs and symptoms of current episode of otitis externa began more than 21 days (3 weeks) prior to baseline.
  - c. Current diagnosis or history of tympanic membrane perforation or damage or tympanostomy tubes.
  - d. Current diagnosis or history of diabetes mellitus, psoriasis, otitis media, malignant otitis externa, mastoid cavities, stenosis, exostosis, or tumors of either ear.
  - e. Current diagnosis of fungal or viral infection of either ear.
  - f. Current diagnosis of dermatitis of the affected ear or surrounding area.
  - g. Current presence of any other infection of the ears or other medical condition that might adversely impact the safety of the study participants or confound the study results.
  - h. Known hypersensitivity to dexamethasone, ciprofloxacin, any member of the quinolone class of antimicrobial agents, or any component of the test or RLD.
  - i. Use of any systemic antibacterial within four weeks prior to baseline.
  - j. Use of any topical or otic medication in the affected ear within two weeks prior to baseline.

6. The protocol should include a list of the prescription and nonprescription/over-the-counter (OTC) drug products, procedures, and activities that are prohibited during the study, such as:
  - a. Otic product administered to either ear, other than the assigned study product.
  - b. Topical or systemic antibiotics, other than the assigned study product.
  - c. Topical or systemic corticosteroids, other than the assigned study product.
  - d. Systemic or topical immunosuppressive drugs or immunomodulators (e.g., azathioprine, infliximab, calcineurin inhibitors).
  - e. Assigned study product should not be used if the tympanic membrane is perforated or in the presence of viral infections of the external canal, including varicella and herpes simplex infections.
  - f. Subjects should be instructed to not use the assigned study product in the eyes, to avoid contaminating the dropper with material from the ear, fingers, or other sources, and to discontinue study product at the first appearance of a skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity or an allergic reaction
7. Subjects who do not respond to therapy after 48 hours are to receive standard therapy (i.e., early escape clause).
8. The two co-primary endpoints are the proportion of subjects in the PP population with: (1) clinical cure (defined as complete resolution of signs and symptoms with no further requirement for antimicrobial therapy) of the study ear and (2) time to end of pain for the study ear, both evaluated at the test of cure visit on study day 14 to 21 (7 to 14 days after the end of treatment). If both ears of the subject are infected, the ear with the more severe signs and symptoms at baseline should be designated as the “study ear” and evaluated at each study visit (i.e., baseline visit, end of treatment visit, and test of cure visit).
9. During each study visit, score each of the following signs (edema, erythema, and otorrhea) and symptoms (otalgia and tenderness) using the following scoring scale:
  - 0 = none (complete absence of any signs of symptoms)
  - 1 = mild (slight)
  - 2 = moderate (definitely present)
  - 3 = severe (marked, intense)
10. Time to end of pain for the affected ear should be evaluated at each post-baseline evaluation visit [(i.e., at both the end of treatment visit (study day 8-10) and the test of cure visit (study day 14-21)]. Throughout the study, subjects should record pain severity at least twice daily (prior to dosing) on a visual analog scale of 0 to 15 where 0 = no pain and 15 = severe pain. Each subject should record the time and date at which the study ear pain ended. The time to end of pain is the interval (in hours) between the first dose of study drug and the time when the study ear pain ended. If study ear pain continued to the end of the study, the value of the time to end of pain variable is set to the length of time between the time of the first dose of study drug and the last time point when a pain measurement was recorded. If the “time to end of ear pain” field is blank, then it should be considered that the pain did not end for the subject while the subject was under observation and the value of the time to end of pain variable is set to the length of time

between the time of the first dose of study drug and the last time point when a pain measurement was recorded.

11. Post-therapy cultures are necessary only if the subject's clinical response is unsatisfactory. Routine post-therapy cultures frequently yield positive results due to the presence of normal flora or other colonization after treatment.
12. If the use of an ear wick or debridement of the ear is permitted during the study, the use of these procedures should be comparable among treatment groups
13. The protocol should clearly define the PP, mITT, and safety populations. The PP population includes all randomized subjects who met all Inclusion/Exclusion criteria, had a positive baseline bacterial culture, used a prespecified proportion of the scheduled doses (e.g., 75% to 125%) of the assigned study product for the specified duration of the study, did not miss the scheduled doses for more than 3 consecutive days, and completed the test of cure visit on study day 14-21 with no protocol violations that would affect the treatment evaluation. The protocol should specify how compliance will be verified (e.g., by the use of subject diaries) and the protocol violations that would affect the treatment evaluation. The mITT population includes all randomized subjects who met all Inclusion/Exclusion criteria, including a positive baseline bacterial culture, used at least one dose of study product, and returned for at least one post-baseline evaluation visit. The safety population includes all randomized subjects who received study product.
14. Subjects with a negative culture at baseline should be discontinued from the study and excluded from the mITT and PP populations, but included in the safety population.
15. Subjects who discontinue because of lack of treatment effect after completing two days of treatment should be analyzed in the mITT and PP populations as a treatment failure. Subjects discontinued for other reasons, including drug-related adverse events, should be excluded from the PP population, but included in the mITT population using Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF).
16. The start and stop dates of concomitant medication use during the study should be provided in the data set in addition to the reason for the medication use. The sponsor should clearly explain whether the medication was used prior to baseline visit, during the study, or both. The use of analgesics should be compared between treatment groups.
17. All adverse events (AEs) should be reported, whether or not they are considered to be related to the treatment. The report of AEs should include date of onset, description of the AE, severity, relation to study medication, action taken, outcome and date of resolution. This information is needed to determine if the incidence and severity of adverse reactions is different between the test product and RS.
18. The method of randomization should be described in the protocol. It is recommended that an independent third party generate and hold the randomization code throughout the conduct of the study in order to minimize bias. The sponsor may generate the

randomization code if not involved in the packaging and labeling of the study medication. A sealed copy of the randomization scheme should be retained at the study site and should be available to FDA investigators at the time of site inspection to allow for verification of the treatment identity of each subject.

19. A detailed description of the blinding procedure is to be provided in the protocol. The packaging of the test, RS, and placebo products should be similar in appearance to make differences in treatment less obvious to the subjects and to maintain adequate blinding of evaluators. When possible, neither the subject nor the investigator should be able to identify the treatment. The containers should not be opened by the subject at the study center.
20. Refer to 21 CFR 320.38, 320.63 and the Guidance for Industry: *Handling and Retention of BA and BE Testing Samples*<sup>b</sup> regarding retention of study drug samples and 21 CFR 320.36 for requirements for maintenance of records of BE testing. In addition, the investigators should follow the procedures of 21 CFR 58 and ICH E6, *Good Clinical Practice: Consolidated Guideline*, for retention of study records and data in order to conduct their studies in compliance with good laboratory practices (GLPs) and good clinical practices (GCPs). Retention samples should be randomly selected from the drug supplies received prior to dispensing to subjects. Retention samples should not be returned to the sponsor at any time.
21. The following statistical analysis method is recommended for equivalence testing for a dichotomous variable (cure versus failure):

#### Equivalence Analysis

Based on the usual method used in FDA for binary outcomes, the 90% confidence interval (CI) for the difference in success proportions between test and reference treatment must be contained within [-0.20, +0.20] in order to establish equivalence.

The compound hypothesis to be tested is:

$$H_0: p_T - p_R < -0.20 \text{ or } p_T - p_R > 0.20$$

versus

$$H_A: -0.20 \leq p_T - p_R \leq 0.20$$

Where  $p_T$  = cure rate of test treatment, and  $p_R$  = cure rate of reference treatment

Let:

$n_T$  = sample size of test treatment group

$cn_T$  = number of cured subjects in test treatment group

$n_R$  = sample size of reference treatment group

$cn_R$  = number of cured subjects in reference treatment group

$$\hat{p}_T = cn_T/n_T, \hat{p}_R = cn_R/n_R$$

$$\text{And } se = (\hat{p}_T(1 - \hat{p}_T)/n_T + \hat{p}_R(1 - \hat{p}_R)/n_R)^{1/2}$$

The 90% CI for the difference in proportions between test and reference can be calculated as follows, using Yates' correction:

$$L = (\hat{p}_T - \hat{p}_R) - 1.645 se - \left(\frac{1}{n_T} + \frac{1}{n_R}\right)/2$$

$$U = (\hat{p}_T - \hat{p}_R) + 1.645 se + \left(\frac{1}{n_T} + \frac{1}{n_R}\right)/2$$

We reject  $H_0$  if  $L \geq -0.20$  and  $U \leq 0.20$ .

Rejection of the null hypothesis  $H_0$  supports the conclusion of equivalence of the two products.

22. The following statistical analysis method is recommended for equivalence and superiority testing for the continuous variable “time to end of pain”:

Data that measure the length of time until the end of pain relief should be analyzed using survival analysis methodology. For survival analysis, if a subject has not achieved complete relief of pain by the end of the study, the subject should be considered “censored” at the end of study.

FDA has not previously established a method for equivalence assessment of survival outcome measures. However, the statisticians propose the Kaplan-Meier product limit method (log-rank test). The analysis would be facilitated by using the LIFETEST procedure in SAS. There are also some methods for survival data equivalence test available in the literature.<sup>4</sup>

For the superiority analysis of time to end of pain, survival functions for the time to end of pain would be estimated by using Kaplan-Meier product limit method for each active RS product versus placebo. The mean/median per each arm would be summarized and the p-values from the log-rank test (of equality of the time to end of pain distribution) would be at the 5% level (two-sided) of significance.

For the equivalence analysis for time to end of pain, the following is proposed:

The compound hypothesis to be tested is:

$$H_0: m_T/m_R \leq \theta_1 \text{ or } m_T/m_R \geq \theta_2$$

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<sup>4</sup> For example: Wellek, Stefan. A Log-Rank Test For Equivalence Of Two Survivor Functions (1993), *Biometrics* 49: 877-881. And John Q. Su and L. J. Wei. Nonparametric Estimation For The Difference Or Ratio Of Median Failure Times (1993): *Biometrics* 49: 603-607.

versus

$$H_0: \theta_1 < m_T/m_R < \theta_2$$

Where,  $m_T$  = median of test treatment,  $m_R$  = median of reference treatment.

The standard in FDA for equivalence analyses for continuous endpoints has been  $\theta_1 = 0.80$  and  $\theta_2 = 1.25$ .

Two methods could potentially be used to perform the equivalence test. The methods are illustrated for  $\theta_1 = 0.80$  and  $\theta_2 = 1.25$ .

#### Perform two one-sided $m_T - 0.8/1.25 m_R$ tests

$$H_{01}: m_T - 0.8 m_R \leq 0 \text{ versus } H_{A1}: m_T - 0.8 m_R > 0$$

$$H_{02}: m_T - 1.25 m_R \geq 0 \text{ versus } H_{A2}: m_T - 1.25 m_R < 0$$

Multiply all of survival data, time to end of pain, from the RS by 0.8 or 1.25, and then test the resulting data set for equality ( $\alpha=0.05$ , one-sided test). This test would be based on the log-rank test. Rejection of both null hypotheses  $H_{01}$  and  $H_{02}$  supports the conclusion of equivalence of the two products.

#### Estimate the 90% CI by using a bootstrap method

The 90% CIs of the median ratio  $m_T/m_R$  (corresponding to two 1-sided tests at level  $\alpha=0.05$ ) could be calculated as follows: (1) obtain medians of test and RS from the Kaplan-Meier product limit method by using the PROC LIFETEST procedure in SAS (2) estimate the ratio  $m_T/m_R$ , (3) perform the bootstrap re-sampling approach to obtain the 90% CI for the ratio  $m_T/m_R$ .

The null hypothesis  $H_0$  would be rejected if the 90% CI for  $m_T/m_R$  is contained in the [0.80, 1.25] interval. Rejection of the null hypothesis  $H_0$  supports the conclusion of equivalence of the two products.

23. Study data should be submitted to FDA in electronic format.
  - a. A list of file names, with a simple description of the content of each file, should be included.
  - b. Provide a PDF document with a detailed description of the codes that are used for each variable in each of the SAS data sets (for example, Y=yes, N=no for analysis population).
  - c. All SAS transport files should include .xpt as the file extension and should not be compressed. A simple SAS program to open the data transport files and SAS files should be included.
  - d. Primary data sets should consist of two data sets: No Last Observation Carried Forward (NO-LOCF-pure data set) and Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF-modified data set).

- e. Provide a separate data set for variables such as demographics, baseline admission criteria, adverse events, reasons for discontinuation of treatment, concomitant medications, medical history, compliance, comments, pain severity scale scores (from subject diary), etc.
24. Provide a summary data set containing a separate line listing for each subject (if data exist) using the following headings, if applicable:
- a. Study identifier
  - b. Subject identifier
  - c. Site identifier: study center
  - d. Age
  - e. Age units (years)
  - f. Sex
  - g. Race
  - h. Name of actual treatment (exposure): test product, RS, placebo
  - i. Duration of treatment (total exposure in days)
  - j. Completed the study (yes/no)
  - k. Reason for premature discontinuation of subject
  - l. Subject required additional treatment for acute otitis externa due to unsatisfactory treatment response (yes/no)
  - m. PP population inclusion (yes/no)
  - n. Reason for exclusion from PP population
  - o. Modified intent to treat (mITT) population inclusion (yes/no)
  - p. Reason for exclusion from mITT population
  - q. Safety population inclusion (yes/no)
  - r. Reason for exclusion from safety population
  - s. Baseline edema score
  - t. Baseline otalgia score
  - u. Baseline tenderness score
  - v. Final designation as clinical cure (yes/no)
  - w. Pain relief achieved while on study (yes/no)
  - x. If pain relief achieved while on study, time to relief of pain (hours)
  - y. Treatment compliance: number of missed doses per subject
  - z. Concomitant medication (yes/no)
  - aa. Adverse event(s) reported (yes/no)

Refer to Table 1 as an example. This sample table may contain additional information not applicable to your study and/or it may not contain all information applicable to your study.

**Table 1. Example of a Summary Data Set Containing One Line Listing for Each Subject**

STUDYID	SUBJID	SITEID	AGE	AGEU	SEX	RACE	EXTRT	EXDUR	completd	disc_rs	add_trt	pp	pp_rs	mitt	mitt_rs	safety	safe_rs	edema_b	otalg_b	tender_b	clincure	pain_rel	time_rel	complian	CM	AE
101	1	1	22	Y	F	1	A	7	Y		N	Y		Y		Y		2	2	3	N	Y	4	0	Y	Y
101	2	1	30	Y	F	1	B	7	Y		N	Y		Y		Y		1	3	2	Y	Y	6	0	N	N

Note: Capitalized headings are from Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) Implementation Guide (IG) for Human Clinical Trials V3.1.2 Final, dated 11/12/08.

STUDYID:	Study identifier
SUBJID:	Subject identifier for the study
SITEID:	Study site identifier
AGE:	Age
AGEU:	Age units (Y=years)
SEX:	Sex, M=male, F=female, U=unknown
RACE:	Race, e.g., 1=white, 2=Black or African American, 3=Asian, 4=American Indian or Alaska Native, 5=Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders
EXTRT:	Name of actual treatment (exposure), e.g., A=test product, B= RLD, C=placebo
EXDUR:	Duration of treatment (total exposure in days)
completd:	Completed the study, Y=yes, N=no
disc_rs:	Reason for premature discontinuation of subject
add_trt:	Subject required additional treatment for acute otitis externa due to unsatisfactory treatment response (yes/no)
pp:	PP population inclusion, Y=yes, N=no
pp_rs:	Reason for exclusion from PP population, e.g., A=prematurely discontinued, B=lost to follow-up, C=subject moved out of the area, D=noncompliant, etc.
mitt:	Modified Intent to Treat (mITT) population inclusion, Y=yes, N=no
mitt_rs:	Reason for exclusion from mITT population, e.g., A=never treated, B=negative baseline culture, etc.
safety:	Safety population inclusion, Y=yes, N=no
safe_rs:	Reason for exclusion from Safety population, e.g., A=never treated, etc.
edema_b:	Baseline edema score, e.g., 0 to 3
otalg_b:	Baseline otalgia score, e.g., 0 to 3
tender_b:	Baseline tenderness score, e.g., 0 to 3
clincure:	Final designation as clinical cure, Y=yes (clinical cure), N=no (failure)
pain_rel:	Pain relief achieved while on study, Y=yes, N=no
time_rel:	If pain relief achieved while on study, time to relief of pain (hours)
complian:	Treatment compliance, e.g., number of missed doses per subject
CM:	Concomitant medication, Y=yes, N=no
AE:	Adverse event(s) reported, Y=yes, N=no

25. Provide a data set containing a separate line listing for each visit per subject (if data exist) using the following headers, if applicable:
  - a. Study identifier
  - b. Subject identifier

- c. Name of Actual Treatment (exposure): test product, RS, placebo control
- d. Visit number
- e. Visit date
- f. Number of days since baseline visit
- g. Evaluator: identity of evaluator
- h. Edema score
- i. Erythema score
- j. Otorrhea score
- k. Otagia score
- l. Tenderness score
- m. Composite (total) signs and symptoms score
- n. Culture result
- o. Concomitant medication reported during this visit (yes/no)
- p. Adverse event reported during this visit (yes/no)
- q. Laboratory testing during this visit (yes/no)

Refer to Table 2 as an example. This sample table may contain additional information not applicable to your study and/or it may not contain all information applicable to your study.

**Table 2. Example of Data Set Containing One Line Listing for Each Visit per Subject**

STUDYID	SUBJID	EXTRT	VISITNUM	SVSTDTC	ELTMBS	EVAL	edema	erythema	otorrhea	otalgia	tender	comps	culture	CMrpt	AErpt	LBtest
101	1	A	1	2004-07-01	0	JB	0	2	1	2	0	5	Pos	Y	N	Y

Note: Capitalized headings are from Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) Implementation Guide (IG) for Human Clinical Trials V3.1.2 Final, dated 11/12/08.

- STUDYID: Study identifier
- SUBJID: Subject identifier for the study
- EXTRT: Name of actual treatment (exposure), e.g., A=test product, B=RLD, C=placebo control
- VISITNUM: Visit sequence number
- SVSTDTC: Visit date: (SVSTDTC=Subject Visit Start Date Time-Character)
- ELTMBS: Elapsed time since baseline (days)
- EVAL: Evaluator: identity of the evaluator, e.g., initials
- edema: Edema score, e.g., 0=none (complete absence), 1=mild (slight), 2=moderate (definitely present), 3=severe (marked, intense)
- erythema: Erythema score, e.g., 0=none (complete absence), 1=mild (slight), 2=moderate (definitely present), 3=severe (marked, intense)
- otorrhea: Otorrhea score, e.g., 0=none (complete absence), 1=mild (slight), 2=moderate (definitely present), 3=severe (marked, intense)
- otalgia: Otagia score, e.g., 0=none (complete absence), 1=mild (slight), 2=moderate (definitely present), 3=severe (marked, intense)

tender:	Tenderness score, e.g., 0=none (complete absence), 1=mild (slight), 2=moderate (definitely present), 3=severe (marked, intense)
comps:	Composite (total) signs and symptoms score
culture:	Culture, e.g., Pos=Positive for <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> or <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , Neg=Negative for <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
CMrpt:	Concomitant medication reported during this visit, Y=yes, N=no
AErpt:	Adverse event reported during this visit, Y=yes, N=no
LBtest:	Laboratory testing performed during this visit, Y=yes, N=no

26. These recommendations are specific to this product and may not be appropriate for bioequivalence studies of any other product, including any other dosage form or strength of ciprofloxacin hydrochloride and dexamethasone.

**Additional comments regarding the in vivo bioequivalence study with clinical endpoints #2 in males and females aged 6 months and older with tympanostomy tubes with acute otitis media:**

1. FDA recommends conducting a bioequivalence study with a clinical endpoint in the treatment of acute otitis media comparing the test product versus RS, each administered as 4 drops instilled into the affected ear twice daily (about 12 hours apart, for example, at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.) for 7 days (1 week). Prior to administration, the suspension should be warmed by holding the bottle in the hand for 1-2 minutes and shaken well immediately before using. The subject should lie with the affected ear upward, and then the drops should be instilled. The tragus should then be pumped 5 times by pushing inward to facilitate penetration of the drops into the middle ear. This position should be maintained for 60 seconds to facilitate penetration of the drops into the ear canal. In the event of bilateral acute otitis media, both ears should be treated; however, the ear with the more severe signs and symptoms at baseline, designated as the “study ear”, will be used for the evaluations throughout the course of the study. The two co-primary endpoints are clinical cure (defined as complete resolution of signs and symptoms with no further requirement for antimicrobial therapy) and time to cessation of otorrhea, both determined at the test of cure visit on study day 14-21 (i.e., 7-14 days after the end of treatment).
2. Inclusion criteria (the sponsor may add additional criteria):
  - a. Male or female aged 6 months to 12 years
  - b. Clinical diagnosis of acute otitis media
  - c. Otorrhea for 3 weeks or less
  - d. Patent tympanostomy tubes
3. Exclusion criteria (the sponsor may add additional criteria):
  - a. Tympanostomy tube placement 3 days or less before baseline visit
  - b. Tympanostomy tubes containing silver oxide or silver salts, or T-type tubes
  - c. History of diabetes mellitus or immunosuppressive disorder

- d. Current presence of any other infection of the ears or other medical condition that might adversely impact the safety of the study participants or confound the study results
  - e. Known hypersensitivity to dexamethasone, ciprofloxacin, any member of the quinolone class of antimicrobial agents, or any component of the test or RLD
  - f. Use of any topical or systemic antibacterial within 14 days prior to baseline visit
  - g. Use of any otic medication within 7 days prior to baseline visit
4. The protocol should include a list of the prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drug products, procedures, and activities that are prohibited during the study, such as:
  - a. Otic product administered to either ear, other than the assigned study product
  - b. Topical or systemic antibiotics, other than the assigned study product
  - c. Topical or systemic corticosteroids, other than the assigned study product
  - d. Systemic or topical immunosuppressive drugs or immunomodulators (e.g., azathioprine, infliximab, calcineurin inhibitors).
  - e. Subjects should be instructed to not use the assigned study product in the eyes; avoid contaminating the dropper with material from the ear, fingers, or other sources; protect treatment from light; and discontinue study product at the first appearance of a skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity or an allergic reaction.
5. The two co-primary endpoints are the proportion of subjects in the PP population with: (1) clinical cure (defined as complete resolution of signs and symptoms with no further requirement for antimicrobial therapy) of the study ear, and (2) time to cessation of otorrhea for the study ear, both evaluated at the test of cure visit on study day 14 to 21 (7 to 14 days after the end of treatment). If both ears of the subject are infected, the ear with the more severe signs and symptoms at baseline should be designated as the “study ear” and evaluated at each study visit (i.e., baseline visit, end of treatment visit, and test of cure visit).
6. Time to cessation of otorrhea for the affected ear should be evaluated at each post-baseline evaluation visit [(i.e., at both the end of treatment visit (study day 8-10) and the test of cure visit (study day 14-21)]. Throughout the study, subjects should note the presence or absence of otorrhea at least daily in a diary. Each subject should record the time and date at which the study ear otorrhea ended. The time to cessation of otorrhea is the interval (in days) between the first dose of study drug and the time when the study ear otorrhea ended. If study ear otorrhea continued to the end of the study, the value of the time to cessation of otorrhea variable is set to the length of time between the time of the first dose of study drug and the last time point when the presence of otorrhea was recorded. If the “time to cessation of otorrhea” field is blank, then it should be considered that the otorrhea did not end for the subject while the subject was under observation and the value of the time to cessation of otorrhea variable is set to the length of time between the time of the first dose of study drug and the last time point when the presence or absence of otorrhea was recorded in the daily diary.

7. The protocol should clearly define the PP and safety populations. The PP population includes all randomized subjects who met all Inclusion/Exclusion criteria, had a positive baseline bacterial culture, used a prespecified proportion of the scheduled doses (e.g., 75% to 125%) of the assigned study product for the specified duration of the study, did not miss the scheduled doses for more than 3 consecutive days, and completed the test of cure visit on study day 14-21 with no protocol violations that would affect the treatment evaluation. The protocol should specify how compliance will be verified, e.g., by the use of subject diaries, and the protocol violations that would affect the treatment evaluation. The safety population includes all randomized subjects who received study product.
8. Subjects who discontinue because of lack of treatment effect after completing five days of treatment should be analyzed in the PP populations as a treatment failure. Subjects discontinued for other reasons, including drug-related adverse events, should be excluded from the PP population.
9. The start and stop dates of concomitant medication use during the study should be provided in the data set in addition to the reason for the medication use. The sponsor should clearly explain whether the medication was used prior to baseline visit, during the study, or both. The use of analgesics should be compared between treatment groups.
10. All adverse events (AEs) should be reported, whether or not they are considered to be related to the treatment. The report of AEs should include date of onset, description of the AE, severity, relation to study medication, action taken, outcome and date of resolution. This information is needed to determine if the incidence and severity of adverse reactions is different between the test product and RS.
11. The method of randomization should be described in the protocol. It is recommended that an independent third party generate and hold the randomization code throughout the conduct of the study in order to minimize bias. The sponsor may generate the randomization code if not involved in the packaging and labeling of the study medication. A sealed copy of the randomization scheme should be retained at the study site and should be available to FDA investigators at the time of site inspection to allow for verification of the treatment identity of each subject.
12. Refer to 21 CFR 320.38, 320.63 and the most recent version of the Guidance for Industry: *Handling and Retention of BA and BE Testing Samples*<sup>b</sup> regarding retention of study drug samples and 21 CFR 320.36 for requirements for maintenance of records of bioequivalence testing. In addition, the investigators should follow the procedures of 21 CFR 58 and ICH E6, *Good Clinical Practice: Consolidated Guideline*, for retention of study records and data in order to conduct their studies in compliance with GLPs and GCPs. Retention samples should be randomly selected from the drug supplies received prior to dispensing to subjects. Retention samples should not be returned to the sponsor at any time.

13. To establish bioequivalence for the first primary endpoint (proportion of subjects with clinical cure), the 90% CI of the test – RS difference between products must be contained within [-0.20, +0.20] for dichotomous variables (cure versus failure), using the PP population. To establish bioequivalence for the second primary endpoint (time to cessation of otorrhea in the study ear), the 90% CI of the test /RS ratio must be contained within [0.80, 1.25] for continuous variables, using the PP population.
14. The following statistical analysis method is recommended for equivalence testing for a dichotomous variable (cure versus failure):

Equivalence Analysis

Based on the usual method used in FDA for binary outcomes, the 90% CI for the difference in success proportions between test and RS must be contained within [-0.20, +0.20] in order to establish equivalence.

The compound hypothesis to be tested is:

$$H_0: p_T - p_R < -0.20 \text{ or } p_T - p_R > 0.20$$

*versus*

$$H_A: -0.20 \leq p_T - p_R \leq 0.20$$

Where  $p_T$  = cure rate of test treatment, and  $p_R$  = cure rate of reference treatment

Let:

$n_T$  = sample size of test treatment group

$cn_T$  = number of cured subjects in test treatment group

$n_R$  = sample size of reference treatment group

$cn_R$  = number of cured subjects in reference treatment group

$$\hat{p}_T = cn_T/n_T, \hat{p}_R = cn_R/n_R$$

$$\text{And } se = (\hat{p}_T (1 - \hat{p}_T)/n_T + \hat{p}_R (1 - \hat{p}_R)/n_R)^{1/2}$$

The 90% CI for the difference in proportions between test and reference can be calculated as follows, using Yates' correction:

$$L = (\hat{p}_T - \hat{p}_R) - 1.645 se - \left(\frac{1}{n_T} + \frac{1}{n_R}\right)/2$$

$$U = (\hat{p}_T - \hat{p}_R) + 1.645 se + \left(\frac{1}{n_T} + \frac{1}{n_R}\right)/2$$

We reject  $H_0$  if  $L \geq -0.20$  and  $U \leq 0.20$ .

Rejection of the null hypothesis  $H_0$  supports the conclusion of equivalence of the two products.

15. The following statistical analysis method is recommended for equivalence and superiority testing for the continuous variable “time to cessation of otorrhea”:

Data that measure the length of time until the cessation of otorrhea should be analyzed using survival analysis methodology. For survival analysis, if a subject has not achieved complete cessation of otorrhea by the end of the study, the subject should be considered “censored” at the end of study.

FDA has not previously established a method for equivalence assessment of survival outcome measures. However, the statisticians propose the Kaplan-Meier product limit method (log-rank test). The analysis would be facilitated by using the LIFETEST procedure in SAS. There are also some methods for survival data equivalence test available in the literature.<sup>4</sup>

For the superiority analysis of time to end of pain, survival functions for the time to end of pain would be estimated by using Kaplan-Meier product limit method for each active product versus placebo. The mean/median per each arm would be summarized and the p-values from the log-rank test (of equality of the time to end of pain distribution) would be at the 5% level (two-sided) of significance.

For the equivalence analysis for time to cessation of otorrhea, the following is proposed:

The compound hypothesis to be tested is:

$$H_0: m_T/m_R \leq \theta_1 \text{ or } m_T/m_R \geq \theta_2$$

versus

$$H_0: \theta_1 < m_T/m_R < \theta_2$$

Where,  $m_T$  = median of test treatment,  $m_R$  = median of reference treatment.

The standard in FDA for equivalence analyses for continuous endpoints has been  $\theta_1 = 0.80$  and  $\theta_2 = 1.25$ .

Two methods could potentially be used to perform the equivalence test. The methods are illustrated for  $\theta_1 = 0.80$  and  $\theta_2 = 1.25$ .

Perform two one-sided  $m_T - 0.8/1.25 m_R$  tests

$$H_{01}: m_T - 0.8 m_R \leq 0 \text{ versus } H_{A1}: m_T - 0.8 m_R > 0$$

$$H_{02}: m_T - 1.25 m_R \geq 0 \text{ versus } H_{A2}: m_T - 1.25 m_R < 0$$

Multiply all of survival data, time to cessation of otorrhea, from the RS by 0.8 or 1.25, and then test the resulting data set for equality ( $\alpha=0.05$ , one-sided test). This test would be based on the log-rank test. Rejection of both null hypotheses  $H_{01}$  and  $H_{02}$  supports the conclusion of equivalence of the two products.

Estimate the 90% CI by using a bootstrap method

The 90% CIs of the median ratio  $m_T/m_R$  (corresponding to two 1-sided tests at level  $\alpha=0.05$ ) could be calculated as follows: (1) obtain medians of test and reference treatment from the Kaplan-Meier product limit method by using the PROC LIFETEST procedure in SAS 2) estimate the ratio  $m_T/m_R$ , 3) perform the bootstrap re-sampling approach to obtain the 90% CI for the ratio  $m_T/m_R$ .

The null hypothesis  $H_0$  would be rejected if the 90% CI for  $m_T/m_R$  is contained in the [0.80, 1.25] interval. Rejection of the null hypothesis  $H_0$  supports the conclusion of equivalence of the two products.

16. The results of the two primary endpoints for both the test product and for the RS should be compared to the results that supported the approval of the reference standard and any historical results in the literature.
17. Study data should be submitted to FDA in electronic format.
  - a. A list of file names, with a simple description of the content of each file, should be included.
  - b. Provide a .pdf document with a detailed description of the codes that are used for each variable in each of the SAS data sets (for example, Y=yes, N=no for analysis population).
  - c. All SAS transport files should include .xpt as the file extension and should not be compressed. A simple SAS program to open the data transport files and SAS files should be included.
  - d. Primary data sets should consist of two data sets: No Last Observation Carried Forward (NO-LOCF-pure data set) and Last Observation Carried Forward (LOCF-modified data set).
  - e. Provide a separate data set for variables such as demographics, baseline admission criteria, adverse events, reasons for discontinuation of treatment, concomitant medications, medical history, compliance, comments, otorrhea (from subject diary), etc.
18. Provide a summary data set containing a separate line listing for each subject (if data exist) using the following headings, if applicable:
  - a. Study identifier
  - b. Subject identifier
  - c. Site identifier: study center
  - d. Age
  - e. Age units (years)
  - f. Sex

- g. Race
- h. Name of Actual Treatment (exposure): test product, RS
- i. Duration of Treatment (total exposure in days)
- j. Completed the study (yes/no)
- k. Reason for premature discontinuation of subject
- l. Subject required additional treatment for acute otitis media due to unsatisfactory treatment response (yes/no)
- m. Per Protocol (PP) population inclusion (yes/no)
- n. Reason for exclusion from PP population
- o. Safety population inclusion (yes/no)
- p. Reason for exclusion from safety population
- q. Final designation as clinical cure (yes/no)
- r. Cessation of otorrhea reported (yes/no)
- s. If cessation of otorrhea reported, time to cessation (days)
- t. Treatment compliance: number of missed doses per subject
- u. Concomitant medication (yes/no)
- v. Adverse event(s) reported (yes/no)

Refer to Table 3 as an example. This sample table may contain additional information not applicable to your study and/or it may not contain all information applicable to your study.

**Table 3: Example of a Summary Data Set Containing One Line Listing for Each Subject**

STUDYID	SUBJID	SITEID	AGE	AGEU	SEX	RACE	EXTRT	EXDUR	completd	disc_rs	add_trt	pp	pp_rs	safety	safe_rs	clincure	otor_ccs	time_ccs	complan	CM	AE
101	1	1	10	Y	F	1	A	7	Y	N	Y		Y		N	N		0	Y	Y	
101	2	1	3	Y	F	1	B	7	Y	N	Y		Y		Y	Y	72	0	N	N	

Note: Capitalized headings are from Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) Implementation Guide (IG) for Human Clinical Trials V3.1.2 Final, dated 11/12/08.

- STUDYID: Study identifier
- SUBJID: Subject identifier for the study
- SITEID: Study site identifier
- AGE: Age
- AGEU: Age units (M=months, Y=years)
- SEX: Sex, M=male, F=female, U=unknown
- RACE: Race, e.g., 1=white, 2=Black or African American, 3=Asian, 4=American Indian or Alaska Native, 5=Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders
- EXTRT: Name of actual treatment (exposure), e.g., A=test product, B= RLD
- EXDUR: Duration of treatment (total exposure in days)
- completd: Completed the study, Y=yes, N=no
- disc\_rs: Reason for premature discontinuation of subject
- add\_trt: Subject required additional treatment for external otitis media due to unsatisfactory treatment response, Y=yes, N=no
- pp: PP population inclusion, Y=yes, N=no

pp\_rs: Reason for exclusion from PP population, e.g., A=prematurely discontinued, B=lost to follow-up, C=subject moved out of the area, D=noncompliant, etc.

safety: Safety population inclusion, Y=yes, N=no

safe\_rs: Reason for exclusion from Safety population, e.g., A=never treated, etc.

clincure: Final designation as clinical cure, e.g., Y=yes (clinical cure), N=no (failure)

otor\_ces: Cessation of otorrhea reported, Y=yes, N=no

time\_ces: If cessation of otorrhea reported, time to cessation (days)

complan: Treatment compliance, e.g., number of missed doses per subject

CM: Concomitant medication, Y=yes, N=no

AE: Adverse event(s) reported, Y=yes, N=no

19. Provide a data set containing a separate line listing for each visit per subject (if data exist) using the following headers, if applicable:

- a. Study identifier
- b. Subject identifier
- c. Name of actual treatment (exposure): test product, RS
- d. Visit number
- e. Visit date
- f. Number of days since baseline visit
- g. Evaluator: identity of evaluator
- h. Cessation of otorrhea reported (yes/no)
- i. If cessation of otorrhea reported, time to cessation (days)
- j. Concomitant medication reported during this visit (yes/no)
- k. Adverse event reported during this visit (yes/no)
- l. Laboratory testing during this visit (yes/no)

Refer to Table 4 as an example. This sample table may contain additional information not applicable to your study and/or it may not contain all information applicable to your study.

**Table 4. Example of Data Set Containing One Line Listing for Each Visit per Subject**

STUDYID	SUBJID	EXTRT	VISITNUM	SVSTDTC	ELTMBS	EVAL	otor_ces	time_ces	CMrpt	AErpt	LBtest
101	1	A	1	2004-07-01	0	JB	Y	6	Y	N	Y

Note: Capitalized headings are from Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) Implementation Guide (IG) for Human Clinical Trials V3.1.2 Final, dated 11/12/08.

STUDYID: Study identifier

SUBJID: Subject identifier for the study

EXTRT: Name of actual treatment (exposure), e.g., A=test product, B=RLD

VISITNUM: Visit sequence number

SVSTDTC: Visit date: (SVSTDTC=Subject Visit Start Date Time-Character)

ELTMBL:	Elapsed time since baseline (days)
EVAL:	Evaluator: identity of the evaluator, e.g., initials
otor_ces:	Cessation of otorrhea reported during this visit, Y=yes, N=no
time_ces:	If cessation of otorrhea reported, time to cessation of otorrhea (days)
CMrpt:	Concomitant medication reported during this visit, Y=yes, N=no
AErpt:	Adverse event reported during this visit, Y=yes, N=no
LBtest:	Laboratory testing performed during this visit, Y=yes, N=no

20. These recommendations are specific to this product and may not be appropriate for bioequivalence studies of any other product, including any other dosage form or strength of ciprofloxacin hydrochloride and dexamethasone.

### **Additional information:**

#### Device:

The RLD is presented in a bottle fitted with a dropper tip. The bottle with dropper tip is the device constituent part.

FDA recommends that prospective applicants examine the size and shape, the external critical design attributes, and the external operating principles of the RLD device when designing the test device.

#### User interface assessment:

An abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for this product should include complete comparative analyses so FDA can determine whether any differences in design for the user interface of the proposed generic product, as compared to the RLD, are acceptable and whether the product can be expected to have the same clinical effect and safety profile as the RLD when administered to patients under the conditions specified in the labeling. For additional information, refer to the most recent version of the FDA guidance for industry on *Comparative Analyses and Related Comparative Use Human Factors Studies for a Drug-Device Combination Product Submitted in an ANDA*.<sup>b</sup>

#### Delivery and dispensing characteristics:

For quality purposes, an ANDA for this product should include a one-time drop volume/drop weight study to determine the drop size during delivery or dispensing. The drop size of the generic product should be within  $\pm 10\%$  of the drop size of the RS product. For any deviations from the RS, the ANDA applicant should demonstrate that the product can dispense a similar number of doses as the RS. Dose uniformity should also be demonstrated by a one-time dose-uniformity study (from top, middle, and bottom of the container) from at least three pilot or exhibit batches to demonstrate that the drug substance is uniformly dispersed, and the labeled dose can be consistently delivered throughout the shelf life.

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**Document History:** Recommended September 2012; Revised March 2015, April 2016, August 2024

**Unique Agency Identifier:** PSG\_021537

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<sup>a</sup> For the most recent version of a product-specific guidance, check the FDA product-specific guidance website at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/psg/index.cfm>.

<sup>b</sup> For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA guidance website at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents>.