

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vii
Zusammenfassung	ix
Abbreviations	xvi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Pharmacometric modelling and simulation	1
1.1.1 Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic models	2
1.1.2 Therapeutic drug monitoring	2
1.1.3 Non-linear mixed-effects modelling and underlying data	3
1.1.4 Simulation analysis	4
1.1.5 NLME software	4
1.2 Monoclonal antibodies	5
1.2.1 Physicochemical properties and mAb classifications	5
1.2.2 Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic characteristics	6
1.2.2.1 Absorption [A]	6
1.2.2.2 Distribution [D]	6
1.2.2.3 Metabolism and excretion [ME]	7
1.2.2.4 Mechanisms of action, pharmacodynamic and toxic effects	8
1.2.3 Immunogenicity	9
1.2.3.1 Definition and general principles	9
1.2.3.2 Clinical implications	10
1.3 Therapeutic areas of monoclonal antibodies and subpopulations considered	11
1.3.1 Children	11
1.3.2 Crohn's disease	11
1.3.2.1 Definitions and general characteristics	11
1.3.2.2 Pathogenesis and treatment options	12
1.3.2.3 Disease activity indices and biomarkers	13
1.4 Infliximab for the treatment of Crohn's disease	15

1.4.1	Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic characteristics	15
1.4.2	Treatment intensification and therapeutic drug monitoring	16
1.4.3	Immunogenicity	17
1.5	Objectives	19
2	Methods and Materials	21
2.1	Pharmacometric modelling and simulation	21
2.1.1	Data considerations and initial graphical evaluation	21
2.1.2	NLME modelling	22
2.1.2.1	Model components	22
2.1.2.2	Parameter estimation	26
2.1.2.3	Handling data below the quantification limit	27
2.1.2.4	Inclusion of prior knowledge	28
2.1.3	Model selection and evaluation	30
2.1.3.1	Internal evaluation	31
2.1.3.2	External evaluation	35
2.1.4	Simulations	35
2.1.4.1	Deterministic and stochastic simulations	35
2.1.4.2	Interpolation and extrapolation	36
2.1.5	Software	37
2.2	Project I: Pharmacokinetic-guided recommendations for dose intensification of infliximab in Crohn's disease	37
2.2.1	Population pharmacokinetic model utilised	38
2.2.2	Virtual Crohn's disease population	38
2.2.3	Concentration-time profiles of standard dosing regimen and validation of simulated data	39
2.2.4	Dose intensifications for group with lower exposure	39
2.3	Project II: Assessment of infliximab $C_{\min}$ thresholds for therapeutic drug monitoring in Crohn's disease	40
2.3.1	Specifications of the $C_{\min}$ thresholds	41
2.3.2	Evaluation of $C_{\min}$ thresholds for prediction of clinical outcome	41
2.4	Project III: Total anti-drug antibody concentration is a better predictor of increased infliximab clearance	42
2.4.1	Study design and study population	43
2.4.2	Quantification of infliximab and anti-drug antibodies	45
2.4.3	Handling of missing infliximab and anti-drug antibody concentrations	46
2.4.4	Handling of missing covariates	47
2.4.5	Pharmacokinetic modelling	47
2.4.5.1	Derivation of the prior parameters	47

2.4.5.2	Covariate model development	48
2.4.5.3	Impact of identified covariates on infliximab concentrations	49
2.5	Project IV: Assessment of relationships between CDAI or CRP concentrations and infliximab exposure supports a need for objective markers of disease activity in Crohn's disease	50
2.5.1	Study population	50
2.5.2	Infliximab exposure	50
2.5.3	Pharmacodynamic markers	51
2.5.4	Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analyses	52
2.6	General statistical methods	52
2.6.1	Descriptive statistics	53
2.6.2	Inferential statistical	53
2.6.2.1	Parametric and non-parametric confidence intervals	54
2.6.2.2	Hypothesis testing	54
3	Results	55
3.1	Project I: Pharmacokinetic-guided recommendations for dose intensification of infliximab in Crohn's disease	55
3.1.1	Virtual population and infliximab concentration-time profiles	55
3.1.2	Impact of dosing intensifications for group with lower exposure	56
3.2	Project II: Assessment of infliximab $C_{\min}$ thresholds for therapeutic drug monitoring in Crohn's disease	60
3.2.1	Evaluation of $C_{\min}$ thresholds for predicting clinical outcome	60
3.3	Project III: Total anti-drug antibody concentration is a better predictor of increased infliximab clearance	61
3.3.1	Study population at baseline and handling of missing variables	61
3.3.2	Change in infliximab dosing regimens and study population over time in study	62
3.3.3	Imputation of missing infliximab HMSA concentrations	62
3.3.4	Infliximab and anti-drug antibody serum concentrations	64
3.3.5	Pharmacokinetic model development	65
3.3.5.1	Prior model derivation	65
3.3.5.2	NLME estimation using derived prior model	69
3.3.5.3	Anti-drug antibody covariate model	71
3.3.5.4	Evaluation of additional covariates	74
3.3.5.5	Further model evaluation	74
3.3.5.6	Impact of identified covariates on infliximab concentration-time profiles	76

3.4	Project IV: Assessment of relationships between CDAI or CRP concentrations and infliximab exposure supports a need for objective markers of disease activity in Crohn's disease	77
3.4.1	Study population	77
3.4.2	Infliximab exposure metrics	78
3.4.3	Markers of disease activity	78
3.4.4	Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analyses	81
4	Discussion	87
4.1	Project I: Pharmacokinetic-guided recommendations for dose intensification of infliximab in Crohn's disease	88
4.1.1	Validity of utilised pharmacokinetic model and simulated concentrations	88
4.1.2	Serum albumin concentration as covariate for infliximab clearance	89
4.1.3	Other covariates for increased infliximab clearance	90
4.1.4	Impact of the different intensification strategies on infliximab exposure	90
4.2	Project II: Assessment of infliximab $C_{\min}$ thresholds for therapeutic drug monitoring in Crohn's disease	91
4.2.1	Evaluation of $C_{\min}$ thresholds for prediction of clinical outcome	91
4.2.1.1	Under-prediction versus over-prediction of clinical outcome	92
4.2.1.2	The sole use of $C_{\min}$ versus combining with other pharmacokinetic parameters	93
4.3	Project III: Total anti-drug antibody concentration is a better predictor of increased infliximab clearance	94
4.3.1	Derivation of prior model	94
4.3.1.1	Structural pharmacokinetic model	94
4.3.1.2	Covariate model	95
4.3.2	Parameter estimation using prior estimates and new data	96
4.3.3	Anti-drug antibody covariate model	96
4.3.3.1	Mathematical relationship	97
4.3.3.2	Total versus unbound neutralising anti-drug antibody concentration	97
4.3.4	Evaluation of additional covariates	98
4.3.4.1	Inter-individual and residual variability	98
4.3.5	Clinical implications of anti-drug antibodies for infliximab therapy in Crohn's disease	99
4.4	Project IV: Assessment of relationships between CDAI or CRP concentrations and infliximab exposure supports a need for objective markers of disease activity in Crohn's disease	100
4.4.1	Limitations	100
4.4.2	Individual infliximab exposure and disease activity markers	101

4.4.3	Absence of pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationship	101
4.4.4	New disease indices and biomarkers	103
5	Conclusions and perspectives	105
5.1	Infliximab therapy in Crohn's disease	105
6	Bibliography	107
7	Appendix	125
7.1	Calculation of prevalence corrected PPV and NPV	125
7.2	Step-by-step re-parameterisation of models evaluated for prior	128
7.2.1	Fasanmade model	128
7.2.2	Ternant model	131
7.3	Model evaluation of unbound neutralising anti-drug antibody model . .	131
7.4	Additional graphics for pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationship of infliximab in Crohn's disease	135
7.4.1	Correlations of disease activity markers	135
7.4.2	Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analyses	136
7.5	PK and PK-PD relationships of mAbs in children	140
	Publications	187
	Curriculum Vitae	188