Promoting the authorisation of alternatives to veterinary medicinal antimicrobials in the EU

3rd International Symposium on Alternatives to Antibiotics - ATA 2019
16-18 December 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Presented by Dr. Javier Pozo on 18 December 2019
European Medicines Agency
Content of the presentation

• Alternatives to antimicrobials - a key priority
• Reflection paper promoting alternatives to antimicrobials
• Current situation and gaps analysis of measures to promote authorisation
• Looking ahead - Opportunities
• Key messages
Alternatives to antimicrobials – A strategic priority in the EU

• AMR recognised as a **global threat** to human and animal health

• Fostering the development, authorisation and use of alternatives to antimicrobials is one of the pillars of fighting AMR

• **Strategic priority** for the EU and the European Medicines Agency (EMA)
Alternatives to antimicrobials – A strategic priority in the EU

• Alternatives products that have the potential to reduce and/or replace the current use of antimicrobials include:
  • Vaccines
  • Immunoglobulins
  • Immunostimulants of the innate system
  • Bacteriophages
  • Bactericidal compounds
  • Probiotics
  • Gene-editing products
Reflection paper on promoting the authorisation of alternatives to antimicrobials in the EU

• **Aim:**
  - Perform a gap analysis of measures in place to support the authorisation of alternatives to antimicrobials
  - Identify possible actions and activities to address those gaps
  - Scope limited to veterinary medicinal products in line with the mandate of the CVMP
  - Reflection on experience, discussion with regulators, feedback from stakeholders, outcome of previous conferences
Reflection paper on promoting the authorisation of alternatives to antimicrobials in the EU

Gaps were identified in:

- EU current regulatory framework for VMPs
- support given to developers and applicants
- strategic collaboration and communication with stakeholders
Gaps in the regulatory framework
Current regulatory framework for veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) in the EU

- **Definition of VMP in legislation** (Directive 2001/82/EC; also in new Regulation 2019/6):

  “any substance or combination of substances which fulfils at least one of the following conditions:
  
  (a) it is presented as having properties for treating or preventing disease in animals;
  
  (b) its purpose is to be used in, or administered to, animals with a view to restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions by exerting a pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action; (…)”

- **Regulatory framework for VMPs:**
  - Directive 2001/82/EC (new Regulation 2019/6 to be implemented from Jan 2022)
  - European Pharmacopoeia texts and monographs
  - General and specific guidelines (CVMP, VICH,…)
Current regulatory approach for alternatives to veterinary medicinal antimicrobials

Alternative to antimicrobials products:

• Treated in principle as any other application for authorisation
• Some products have been authorised for many years e.g. vaccines
• Regulatory challenges are not unique to alternatives but shared with all type of innovative technologies or approaches
• General recognition that current regulatory framework is not well adapted to accommodate this type of products
• Interest of the authorities to promote authorisation of alternatives
Gaps in the regulatory framework -1

• Lack of consistent terminology and definitions

• Challenges in classification – borderline products
  • Depending on presentation, intended use and claims made, products may be classified either as veterinary medicinal product, feed additive or biocide
  • Regulatory framework to be applied and the authority handling authorisation depends on classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Type of product</th>
<th>Regulatory framework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European medicines agency (EMA)</td>
<td>Veterinary medicinal product</td>
<td>Directive 2001/82/EC*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</td>
<td>Feed additive</td>
<td>Regulation (EC) 1831/2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Chemical Authority (ECHA)</td>
<td>Biocide</td>
<td>Regulation (EU) 528/2012</td>
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Gaps identified in the regulatory framework - 2

• Regulatory framework not adapted – new approaches/paradigms needed
  • Demonstration of safety and clinical efficacy:
    • Efficacy endpoints, efficacy claims: descriptive claims acceptable?
    • How to design trial to support them?
  • Approach to benefit-risk evaluation
    • How to factor-in the positive effect in reducing the need for antimicrobials
• Lack of specific guidance increases uncertainty – explore development of specific guidance
Gaps in support to developers and applicants
Support tools available to developers and applicants

Advice

• **Innovation task force (ITF):** Early stages of development, general or product-specific, advice on legal, regulatory and/or scientific aspects

• **Scientific advice:** Later stages of development, pre-submission or during evaluation

• **Pre-submission meetings:** Later stages of development, product-specific

• **Advice from ADVENT (novel therapies):** General guidance e.g. Q&A documents on specific topics
Support tools available to developers and applicants

Incentives

- **Small and medium-sized enterprise scheme (SME):** Administrative, regulatory and financial support to SMEs

- **MUMS/Limited market scheme:** Reduction in data requirements and financial incentives (food-producing species)
Gaps in the support to developers and applicants

• Need for advice at early stages of development
  - Promote and optimise use of ITF (EMA) and innovation offices (NCAs)
• Many SMEs companies unaware of regulatory requirements and assistance provided by EMA
  - Promote EMA and NCA incentives to SMEs working in the area of alternatives
• Creation of ‘pull incentives’ – need for new financial models
  - Explore financial or other incentives to authorisation of alternative products
Gaps in strategic collaboration and stakeholder engagement
Gaps in strategic collaboration and stakeholder engagement

• Communication with stakeholders
  - Create a platform of communication and dialogue with industry, researchers e.g. a public-private partnership
  - Inclusion as priority topic in the EMA Regulatory Science Strategy to 2025

• Develop objective targets to monitor success of measures to promote alternatives
  - Draft roadmap with targets for development – identify alternatives with greatest potential

• International collaboration
Reflection paper on promoting the authorisation of alternatives to antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products in the EU

Next steps

• Public consultation open until 30 April 2020

• Comments from stakeholders sought


Set priorities and define next steps and actions based on the results of gap analysis and feedback from consultation
Opportunities – Looking ahead
Opportunities – New regulatory framework

• New Veterinary Regulation 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products


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New Regulation (EU) 2019/6 - Highlights

- Adapt regulatory framework to scientific progress
- Reduce administrative burden and increase availability
- Tackle AMR and incentivise the development of new antimicrobials
- Protection of data documentation for new products
- Mandate NCs to support SMEs
- Open the centralised route to all products
Reg. (EU) 2019/6 - Impact on authorisation of alternatives

- **Classification of VMPs**: Coordination group of MSs to provide recommendations on classification of borderline products.

- **New categories of VMPs with general data requirements defined for each category**: Easier to accommodate alternative products, allows more flexibility.

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Veterinary medicinal products

- Non-biologicals
- Biologicals
  - Non-immunologicals
  - Immunologicals
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Reg. (EU) 2019/6 - Impact on authorisation of alternatives

• New technical requirements for novel therapies
  - General requirements on quality, safety and efficacy
  - Specific requirements for certain products e.g. phage therapy, RNA antisense therapy and RNA interference therapy products

• Increase availability of vaccines
  - Vaccine antigen master file
  - Vaccine technology platform master file
  - Revision of multi-strain dossier
  - Limited markets
Key messages

• Fostering the development, authorisation and use of alternatives to antimicrobials is an effective way to reduce antimicrobial use and must be a key priority

• Main regulatory challenges: uncertainty on classification and the approach to demonstrate safety, efficacy and the overall positive benefit/risk balance

• Early dialogue and collaboration between researchers, industry and regulators essential

• The new Regulation (EU) 2019/6 offers a more flexible, accommodating regulatory framework for alternative products. This potential should be further developed.

• Gaps analysis will be used to establish priorities and define next steps and necessary actions to address the key gaps identified.
Thank you for your attention

Further information

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