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**STATISTICAL REVIEW(S)**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Office of Translational Sciences  
Office of Biostatistics

## STATISTICAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION CLINICAL STUDIES

**NDA/Serial Number:** 202514

**Drug Name:** Preservative-Free Tafluprost 0.0015% Ophthalmic Solution

**Indication(s):** Treatment of Elevated Intraocular Pressure (IOP)

**Applicant:** Merck & Co., Inc.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	4
1.2 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CLINICAL STUDIES.....	4
1.3 STATISTICAL ISSUES AND FINDINGS.....	6
<b>2. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 OVERVIEW .....	9
2.2 APPLICATION HISTORY .....	9
2.3 DATA SOURCES.....	10
<b>3. STATISTICAL EVALUATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 EVALUATION OF EFFICACY .....	10
3.1.1 Study Designs and Endpoints .....	10
3.1.2 Patient Disposition, Demographic and Baseline Characteristics .....	13
3.1.3 Statistical Methodologies.....	19
3.1.3.1 Studies 15-003, 001, and 74458.....	19
3.1.3.2 Study 77550 .....	22
3.1.4 Results and Conclusions .....	22
3.2 EVALUATION OF SAFETY .....	28
<b>4. FINDINGS IN SPECIAL/SUBGROUP POPULATIONS .....</b>	<b>30</b>
4.1 STUDY 15-003.....	30
4.2 STUDY 001 .....	32
4.3 STUDY 74458.....	33
<b>5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>34</b>
5.1 STATISTICAL ISSUES AND COLLECTIVE EVIDENCE.....	34
5.2 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	37
<b>APPENDIX A: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CHOICE OF 1.5 MMHG NON-INFERIORITY MARGIN USING TIMOLOL (0.5% TWICE DAILY) AS THE ACTIVE COMPARATOR.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF PHASE II STUDIES .....</b>	<b>43</b>
1. STUDY 15-001 (PHASE II DOSE-FINDING STUDY I) .....	43
2. STUDY 15-002 (PHASE II DOSE-FINDING STUDY II) .....	45
3. STUDY 74457 (PHASE II STUDY; A PILOT LATANOPROST COMPARISON STUDY) .....	47
<b>APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF OTHER PHASE III STUDIES .....</b>	<b>48</b>
1. STUDY 74460 .....	48
2. STUDY 77552 .....	49
<b>SIGNATURES/DISTRIBUTION LIST.....</b>	<b>51</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: IOP Change from Baseline Analysis Results (FAS, LOCF, ANCOVA) .....	6
Table 2: IOP Change from Baseline for Study 77550 (FAS, LOCF, RM ANCOVA).....	8
Table 3: Summary of Key Design Elements for Studies 15-003, 001, and 74458 .....	11
Table 4: Summary of Key Design Elements for Studies 74460, 77550, and 77552 .....	12
Table 5: Study 15-003 Disposition of All Randomized Subjects.....	13
Table 6: Study 15-003 Summary of Each Analysis Set .....	13
Table 7: Study 15-003 Demographic Characteristics.....	13
Table 8: Study 15-003 Baseline IOPs (in worst eye) .....	14
Table 9: Study 15-003 Ocular Diagnosis .....	14
Table 10: Study 001 Disposition of All Randomized Subjects .....	15
Table 11: Study 001 Summary of Each Analysis Set .....	15
Table 12: Study 001 Demographic Characteristics.....	15
Table 13: Study 001 Baseline IOPs (in worst eye) .....	16
Table 14: Study 74458 Disposition of All Randomized Subjects .....	16
Table 15: Study 74458 Summary of Each Analysis Set.....	17
Table 16: Study 77548 Demographic Characteristics.....	17
Table 17: Study 74458 Baseline IOPs (in worst eye) .....	18
Table 18: Study 77548 Ocular Diagnosis .....	18
Table 19: Study 77550 Ocular Diagnosis .....	19
Table 20: Study 77550 Baseline IOPs (in worst eye) .....	19
Table 21: IOP Change from Baseline Analysis Results by Statistical Reviewer (FAS, LOCF, ANOCVA) .....	23
Table 22: IOP Change from Baseline for Study 77550 (FAS, LOCF, RM ANCOVA).....	25
Table 23: IOP Change from Baseline Sensitivity Analysis Results by Statistical Reviewer (FAS, Multiple Imputation, ANOCVA) .....	26
Table 24: Ocular AEs Reported for More Than 5 subjects in either group for study 15-003 (Safety Population).....	29
Table 25: Ocular AEs Reported for $\geq$ 4 subjects in either group for study 001 (Safety Population) .....	29
Table 26: Ocular AEs Reported for More Than 5 subjects in either group for study 74458 (Safety Population).....	29
Table 27: Ocular AEs in Either Group for Study 77550 (Safety Population) .....	30
Table 28: Study 15-003 Summary Statistics for IOP (mmHg) by Previous Use of Prostaglandin and Ocular Diagnosis .....	30
Table 29: Study 15-003 Summary Statistics for IOP (mmHg) by Time Point and Subgroup at Week 12 (PP, Study Eye).....	32
Table 30: Study 74458 Summary Statistics for IOP (mmHg) by Previous Use of Prostaglandin and Ocular Diagnosis (PP, Study Eye) .....	33
Table 31: IOP Change from Baseline Analysis Results by Statistical Reviewer (FAS, LOCF, ANOCVA) .....	34
Table 32: IOP Change from Baseline for Study 77550 (FAS, LOCF, RM ANCOVA).....	36
Table 33: Mean Change $\pm$ SD from Baseline in IOP (mmHg) in Study 15-001 .....	38
Table 34: Treatment Difference with 95% CI for Mean Change from Baseline in IOP (mmHg) for Study 15-001 .....	39
Table 35: Mean Change from Baseline in IOP (mmHg) in Study 15-002 .....	40
Table 36: Mean IOP Change from Baseline for Studies 15-003 and 001 .....	40
Table 37: Combined IOP Change from Baseline for Placebo and Timolol at Each Time Point .....	42
Table 38: Mean Diurnal IOP during the Treatment Period (mmHg) in Study 15-001 (ANOVA, PP Population, Observed).....	44
Table 39: Mean Change from Baseline in Diurnal IOP (mmHg) in Study 15-001 (ANOVA, PP Population, Observed).....	44
Table 40: Mean Change from Baseline in IOP (mmHg) on Day 28 in Study 15-001 (ANOVA, PP Population, Observed) .....	44
Table 41: IOP Values of Patients Treated with 0.0015% Tafluprost, 0.5% Timolol and 0.005% Latanoprost in Phase II Clinical Trial 15-002 (ANOVA, PP, Observed).....	46
Table 42: Mean Change from Baseline in IOP on Day 28 (mmHg) in Study 15-002 (ANOVA, PP, Observed Data) .....	46
Table 43: Study 74457 Summary of IOP Change from Baseline (mmHg) by Visit, and Time Point (PP, LOCF) .....	47
Table 44: Study 74457 Analysis of IOP Change from Baseline (mmHg) by Visit, and Time Point (PP, ANCOVA, LOCF).....	48
Table 45: Study 74460 Summary of IOP Change from Baseline (mmHg) by Visit, and Time Point (PP, LOCF).....	49

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.1 Conclusions and Recommendations**

In this submission, the Applicant seeks approval of preservative-free (PF) tafluprost 0.0015% ophthalmic solution administered once daily for the treatment of elevated intraocular pressure (IOP). The Applicant submitted three non-inferiority efficacy studies (two timolol non-inferiority studies [15-003 and 001] and one Latanoprost Non-Inferiority Study [74458]), and a study comparing the PC formulation and PF formulation (Study 77550).

For study 15-003 comparing preservative-containing (PC) tafluprost with PC timolol, both PC tafluprost and the active comparator PC timolol showed IOP-lowering effect throughout the 12-month study period. Tafluprost reached the predetermined criteria for non-inferiority (1.5 mmHg) at each visit and time point using timolol as the active comparator.

For study 001 comparing PF tafluprost versus PF timolol, both PF tafluprost and the active comparator (PF timolol) showed IOP-lowering effect throughout the 12 weeks of treatment. The IOP-lowering effect of PF tafluprost was within the 1.5 mmHg non-inferiority margin compared to PF timolol at all visits and time points.

Study 77550 investigated the pharmacodynamics (as expressed in IOP) of the preserved and unpreserved formulation of tafluprost 0.0015% eye drops in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. For both the preservative-containing and preserve-free formulation, a similar and clear IOP-lowering effect was seen already at week 1 and the IOP-lowering effect was sustained and similar for both formulations at week 4.

For study 74458, both PC tafluprost and PC latanoprost reduced IOP throughout the 24 months treatment period. However, tafluprost did not reach the predetermined criterion for non-inferiority (1.5 mmHg) versus latanoprost.

Using the non-inferiority margin of 1.5 mmHg, both studies 15-003 and 001 demonstrated non-inferiority of tafluprost 0.0015% to timolol 0.5% in reducing elevated intraocular pressure in patients with open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension in both preservative-containing and preservative-free formulation. Study 77550 demonstrated that the IOP lowering effects for the PC formulation and the PF formulation were similar.

Based on the totality of the evidence provided by these pivotal studies, we recommend the approval of PF tafluprost 0.0015% dosed once daily for the treatment of elevated intraocular pressure in patients with open glaucoma or ocular hypertension.

### **1.2 Brief Overview of Clinical Studies**

The Phase III program consisted of three pivotal non-inferiority efficacy studies (two timolol non-inferiority studies [15-003 and 001] and one Latanoprost Non-Inferiority Study [74458]), an adjunctive therapy to timolol study (74460) examining the additive effect of tafluprost to timolol,

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