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## Addressing all PICO in the JCA dossier – Is it feasible?

### Objectives

The PICO framework (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome) provides a standard format for addressing specific research questions and will be used to specify the overall assessment scope for the Joint Clinical Assessment (JCA), reflecting all EU Member States needs. In our PICO exercise, consolidating national PICO from 16 EU Member States for cipaglucosidase alfa (Pombiliti®) for the treatment of late-onset Pompe disease (LOPD) via an internal scoping process<sup>1</sup> resulted in a total of 13 PICO, comprising 4 different patient populations and several different comparators. According to Annex I of the first Implementing Act, all identified PICO should be addressed in the EU HTA dossier and if no results are submitted, the reasons for their omission have to be explained. Therefore, this analysis aims to investigate whether it is feasible to address all identified PICO in the EU HTA dossier for JCA with the currently available evidence.

### Methods

We conducted a systematic literature research to identify relevant randomized controlled trials (RCT) that allow a direct or indirect treatment comparison for cipaglucosidase alfa in LOPD for all consolidated PICO. For this purpose, the databases MEDLINE and Cochrane as well as the clinical trial registries clinicaltrials.gov, EU-CTR, ICTRP and CTIS were searched for RCTs with adult LOPD-patients (ERT-naïve and ERT-experienced) with alglucosidase alfa, avalglucosidase alfa or Best Supportive Care (e. g. placebo) as comparators.

### Results

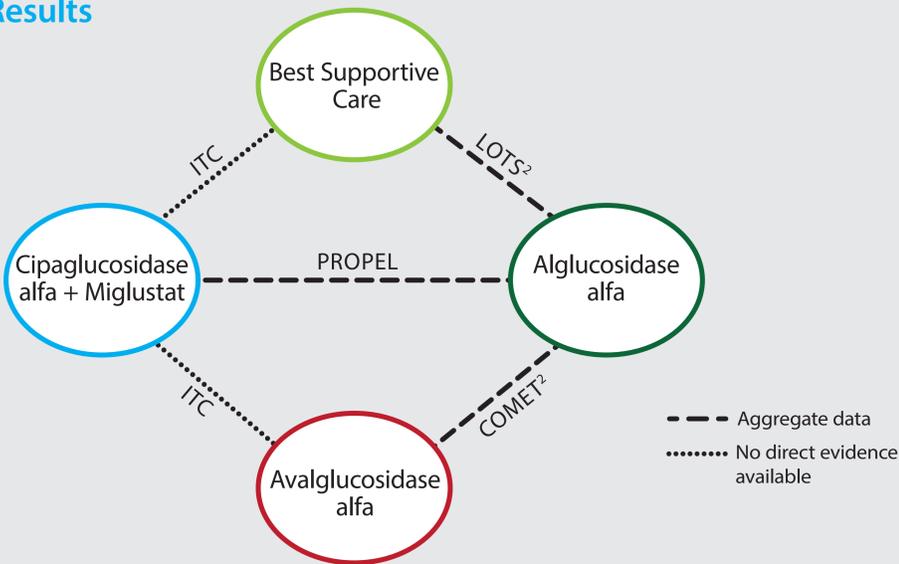


Fig. 1) Network of RCTs allowing a direct or indirect treatment comparison of cipaglucosidase alfa

In the systematic literature research, we identified 3 different RCTs that allow a direct or indirect treatment comparison (ITC) for cipaglucosidase alfa:

- In the pivotal PROPEL study adult patients with LOPD were treated with either cipaglucosidase alfa in combination with miglustat or with alglucosidase alfa and thereby allowing a **direct treatment comparison**.
- However, clinical trials for a direct treatment comparison of cipaglucosidase alfa + miglustat with avalglucosidase alfa or with Best Supportive Care (e.g. placebo as a comparator) were **not identified**.
- Instead, the clinical trials COMET (avalglucosidase alfa vs. alglucosidase alfa) and LOTS (alglucosidase alfa vs. Best Supportive Care) could be used for an **ITC with alglucosidase alfa** as the common comparator.

A **network meta-analysis** combining direct and indirect evidence as shown in figure 1, could therefore be used to gather evidence and analyze the clinical trial outcomes for the EU HTA dossier.

Based on the clinical trials identified, we assessed whether evidence from the possible network meta-analysis of the 3 RCTs (PROPEL, LOTS, COMET) would be sufficient to cover all 13 PICO. However, as shown below, direct or indirect evidence is only available for 8 out of 13 PICO. Therefore, 5 PICO cannot be addressed in the EU HTA dossier with adequate evidence. Overall, if the distinction is made between ERT-naïve and ERT-experienced patients, the number of potential PICO doubles without the corresponding additional studies being feasible due to the small number of patients with this rare chronic disease.

	Internal Scoping Process <sup>1</sup> (16 Member States – 13 PICO)	Evidence
Adult patients with LOPD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alglucosidase alfa</li> <li>2. Avalglucosidase alfa</li> <li>3. Best Supportive Care</li> </ol>	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p> <p>✗</p>
Adult patients with LOPD ERT-naïve	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Alglucosidase alfa</li> <li>5. Avalglucosidase alfa</li> <li>6. Best Supportive Care</li> </ol>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
Adult patients with LOPD ERT-experienced	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Alglucosidase alfa</li> <li>8. Avalglucosidase alfa</li> <li>9. Best Supportive Care</li> <li>10. Individualized treatment taking into account previous therapies, selection of                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Alglucosidase alfa</li> <li>– Avalglucosidase alfa</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>✓</p> <p>✗</p> <p>✗</p> <p>✗</p>
Adult patients with LOPD 18-65 years old	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Total population: Alglucosidase alfa<sup>3</sup></li> <li>12. ERT-naïve: Alglucosidase alfa<sup>3</sup></li> <li>13. ERT-experienced: Alglucosidase alfa<sup>3</sup></li> </ol>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

✓ direct or indirect evidence available    ✗ direct or indirect evidence not available

### Conclusion

- Due to a high number of PICO, comprising of 4 different patient (sub-)populations and several different comparators, and only a limited number of RCTs, **not all PICO** can be met with adequate data in the EU HTA dossier.
- Because direct treatment comparisons are not always available, **ITCs and/or NMAs** will play a profound role in preparing the statistical analyses for the EU HTA dossier. Nonetheless, in order to perform an ITC/NMA, the studies must be sufficiently comparable (e.g. study duration, patient population, etc.).
- However, in order to anticipate possible gaps and to address all PICO, a **timely review of the existing evidence** is essential for preparing the EU HTA dossier.

### References

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- Ecker T. et al. "Challenges of the PICO Scoping Process: How does the number of involved member states impact results?"; poster, HTA324, ISPOR Europe 2024

### Abbreviations

ERT: Enzyme-replacement therapy, EU HTA: European Health Technology Assessment, ITC: Indirect treatment comparison, JCA: Joint Clinical Assessment, LOPD: Late-onset Pompe disease, NMA: Network Meta-analysis, RCT: Randomized controlled trial

<sup>1</sup> Please also see Ecker T.et.al."Challenges of the PICO Scoping Process: How does the number of involved member states impact results?"; poster, HTA324, ISPOR Europe 2024

<sup>2</sup> ERT-naïve patients only

<sup>3</sup> Requires patient level data