

THE 6-MINUTE WALK TEST AND OTHER CLINICAL ENDPOINTS IN DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY: RELIABILITY, CONCURRENT VALIDITY, AND MINIMAL CLINICALLY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES FROM A MULTICENTER STUDY

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Accepted 7 May 2013

ABSTRACT: Introduction: An international clinical trial enrolled 174 ambulatory males ≥ 5 years old with nonsense mutation Duchenne muscular dystrophy (nmDMD). Pretreatment data provide insight into reliability, concurrent validity, and minimal clinically important differences (MCIDs) of the 6-minute walk test (6MWT) and other endpoints. Methods: Screening and baseline

evaluations included the 6-minute walk distance (6MWD), timed function tests (TFTs), quantitative strength by myometry, the PedsQL heart rate–determined energy expenditure index, and other exploratory endpoints. Results: The 6MWT proved feasible and reliable in a multicenter context. Concurrent validity with other endpoints was excellent. The MCID for 6MWD was 28.5 and 31.7 meters based on 2 statistical distribution methods. Conclusions: The ratio of MCID to baseline mean is lower for 6MWD than for other endpoints. The 6MWD is an optimal primary endpoint for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) clinical trials that are focused therapeutically on preservation of ambulation and slowing of disease progression.

Muscle Nerve 48: 357–368, 2013

Abbreviations: 6MWD, 6-minute walk distance; 6MWT, 6-minute walk test; AOS, American Thoracic Society; CNGR, Cooperative International Neuromuscular Research Group; CK, creatine kinase; DMD, Duchenne muscular dystrophy; EEI, energy expenditure index; HRQL, health-related quality of life; MCID, minimal clinically important difference; MPS, mucopolysaccharidosis; nmDMD, nonsense mutation DMD; NSAA, North Star Ambulatory Assessment; PedsQL, Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory; TFT, timed function test

Key words: 6-minute walk test; ambulation; Duchenne muscular dystrophy; energy expenditure index; muscular dystrophy; myometry; natural history; PedsQL; timed function test

The study was sponsored by PTC Therapeutics, Inc. (South Plainfield, New Jersey, USA), which was responsible for all aspects of the study, and by a grant from the FDA Office of Orphan Products.

Disclosures: G.M.M. is a member of the Cooperative Neuromuscular Research Group (CNGR) Executive Committee and has served on advisory committees for PTC Therapeutics, Inc., Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline, Progenia, Halo Therapeutics, Shire HGT, Cardex Therapeutics, and Novartis AG. E.K.H. is a member of the CNGR Executive Committee and has served as a consultant for Genzyme Corporation and PTC Therapeutics, Inc. R.T.A. has served as a consultant for PTC Therapeutics, Inc., and Sarepta Therapeutics. J.M.F. serves on a scientific advisory board for Progenia, on the editorial board of *Neuromuscular Disorders*, and serves as a member of the CNGR Executive Committee and as a consultant for Progenia, GlaxoSmithKline, Genzyme Corporation, PTC Therapeutics, Inc., and Acceleron Pharma. M.E. has served as a clinical evaluator trainer for PTC Therapeutics, and as a consultant for Progenia and GlaxoSmithKline. E.G. has served as a clinical evaluator trainer for PTC Therapeutics. A.M.G. has served as a clinical evaluator trainer for PTC Therapeutics. J.B. is the Chief Medical Officer for PTC Therapeutics. J.R. is the Vice President for Clinical Development at PTC Therapeutics. G.E. is the Executive Director of Biostatistics at PTC Therapeutics. A.R. is the Director of Clinical Development at PTC Therapeutics. S.W.F. is the Chief Executive Officer and founding scientist, PTC Therapeutics, Inc.

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

*Collaborating authors are listed in Appendix 1. Other members of the PTC124-GD-007-DMD Study Group are listed in Appendix 2 in the Supporting Information.

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Published online 17 July 2013 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com). DOI 10.1002/mus.23605

Reliability, Validity and MCID of 6MWT and other Endpoints in DMD

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a disabling and life-threatening X-linked genetic disorder caused by defects in the gene for dystrophin, a protein that stabilizes muscle cell membranes.¹ DMD is characterized by complete loss of dystrophin and is the most common neuromuscular disease of childhood. It affects 1 in 3800–6300 males, and there are an estimated 15,000 patients with the disease in the USA.^{2,3} There is no approved therapy that addresses the underlying cause of DMD.^{4,5} In $\sim 13\%$ of boys with nonsense mutation DMD (nmDMD), which represents ~ 1700 boys in the USA and ~ 2400 boys in Europe), the causative defect in the dystrophin gene is a nonsense mutation that truncates dystrophin protein production by introducing a premature stop codon into dystrophin mRNA.^{6–8}

THE NEED FOR CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL ENDPOINTS IN DMD

Given that several novel approaches to treatment of DMD have shown promise in preclinical and/or proof-of-concept clinical studies,^{9–12} the research community has faced the need to identify and develop clinically meaningful outcome measures for use in pivotal therapeutic trials. In boys with DMD, walking abnormalities are a major disease manifestation that has great importance to patients and

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Table of Contents Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide

1. Understanding the eBook Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Personalized Recommendations

- Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide User Reviews and Ratings
- Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide Free and Paid eBooks
 - Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide Public Domain eBooks
 - Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide eBook Subscription Services
 - Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide Compatibility with Devices
 - Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Interactive Elements Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
- 8. Staying Engaged with Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Setting Reading Goals Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Northstar 2013 Hm Study Guide

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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