CASE STUDY:

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE TRIAL IN WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING POTENTIAL

Early phase trials in the area of Women's Health (encompassing obstetrics, gynecology, and reproduction) pose a unique set of challenges that are not typically present in standard Normal Healthy Volunteer trials. Typically, there are more stringent eligibility criteria in place for female participants, as well as additional procedures and assessments required by the protocol.

WCCT understands these unique challenges and is able to translate that understanding into the planning and execution stages of clinical trials in this area. The following is a case study of a recent trial which highlights WCCT's ability to serve as a strategic partner and improve outcomes in early phase Women's Health studies.

STUDY OVERVIEW

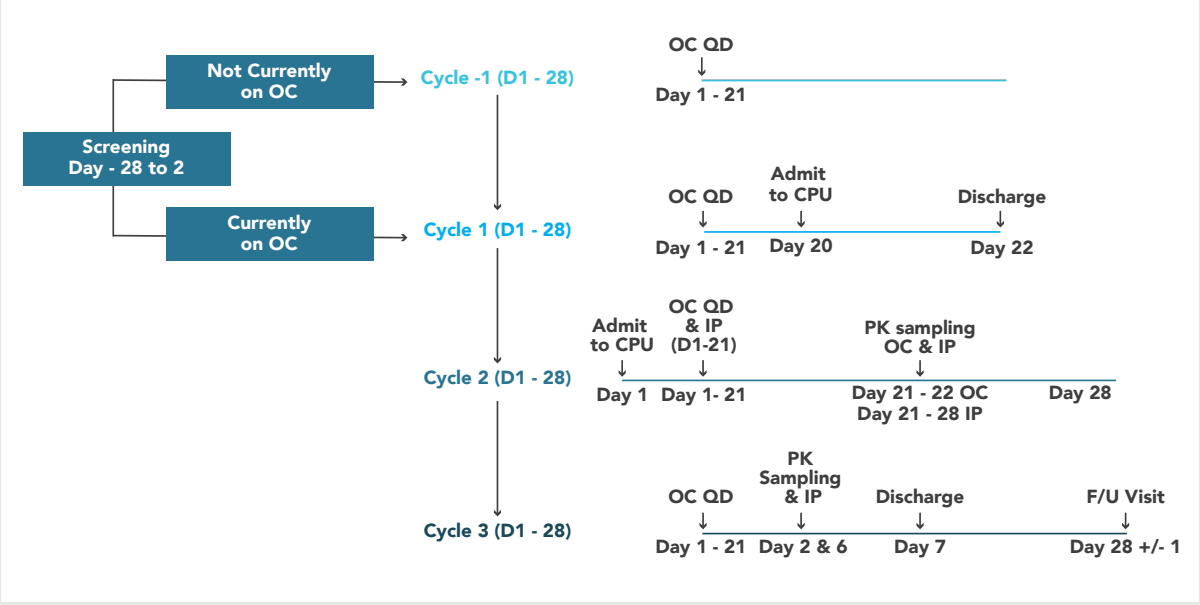
Because the Sponsor anticipated the need to evaluate women using highly-effective birth control methods as a sub-population in future efficacy studies, the objective for this study was to obtain early data on how their product might impact the effectiveness of hormonal oral contraceptives (OCs).

The study was to be conducted in 30 Women of Child-Bearing Potential (WOCBP) aged 21-40, on a stable regimen of oral birth control or hormonal contraceptives, and with normal Pap smear results within 3 years before Day 1 of the first treatment cycle (Cycle 1).

STUDY DESIGN

Open-label, multiple-dose, single sequence, crossover

- Screening Period of up to 28 days prior to the beginning of the Study Period
- Optional "Lead-In" cycle lasting up to 28 days prior to Cycle 1
- Cycle 1 lasting up to 28 days including OC treatment on Days 1 to 20
- Cycles 2 and 3 lasting up to 57 days including:
  - Confinement period lasting up to 36 days/35 nights
  - Follow-up visit approximately 28 days following discharge



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MEETING THE CHALLENGE

In order to ease the difficulty of recruitment, the Sponsor made the following eligibility and design adjustments (upon recommendations from WCCT's Medical and Operations teams):

- Women who were not on required contraceptive or using contraceptives at all to initiate use of OC during Cycle -1
- Pap smear to be performed at screening if prior results were unavailable
- Operational adjustment for mid-week scheduling of treatment initiation to prevent otherwise-eligible subjects from falling Out-of-Window

The challenge for WCCT was to successfully:

- Identify eligible subjects who were willing to be confined for 35 nights
- Ensure compliance of contraceptive use reporting all throughout the study
- Train OC-naïve subjects on proper usage/at-home dosing

In order to accomplish this, WCCT:

1. Initiated recruitment activities far in advance of Screening period to meet Sponsor deadlines
2. Study staff remained in constant communication with subjects to coordinate appointments and provide instruction on OC usage/diary tracking
   i. Reminder Calls/Emails at: Screening, Pap Smear appointment, At-home dosing, Admission, Diary and medication return, Menstrual cycle start
3. Provided transportation to Pap Smear appointments to ensure subject eligibility and decreasing the risk of missed visits
4. Accommodated rolling enrollment of subjects due to unpredictability of menstruation cycles
5. Implemented various retention measures to ease 35-day confinement period such as:
   i. Classes and activities
   ii. Specialty meals

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Had WCCT been uninvolved during the planning stages and unable to make important recommendations to the Sponsor regarding recruitment and retention tactics, the study might have been performed much differently and with much more difficulty.

For example, the study could have been performed primarily through an OBGYN, but this would have resulted in a lack of dedicated Phase 1 experience which was necessary to understand the intricacies of long-term confinement studies. Additionally, had the Sponsor only allowed subjects who were already taking the specific OC required in the protocol, the pool of potentially eligible subjects would be been narrowed down significantly, causing delays in overall recruitment and accrual rates.

Furthermore, the Sponsor could have required that subjects already have medical documentation of a Pap Smear, which would have made subject identification even more difficult. Lastly, had the Sponsor not allowed for flexible confinement periods, further delays may have been caused due to the variability of subjects' menstruation cycles. This is an element which does not commonly have an impact on Phase 1 study designs.

As a result of important protocol input and a creative approach to subject identification, WCCT successfully enrolled 32 volunteers, of which 27 completed all study activities. Due to the ability to execute this project, WCCT was awarded a subsequent study of a similar design by the same Sponsor and was once again leveraged for substantive protocol consultation.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

WCCT is a full-service, early phase contract research organization (CRO) for the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries.
We are specialized regulatory and clinical development professionals who offer an innovative, agile and collaborative approach to every program we deliver.

. 180+ FTEs
. 180 bed Clinical Pharmacology Unit in Cypress, CA
. Participated in over 1,000 trials
. Over 600 Phase I studies
. Strong history of First-In-Human and Pivotal BA/BE trials

Areas of Focus:
. Ethnobridging
. Phase 1 Healthy Volunteer
. Infectious Disease & Vaccines
. Ophthalmology
. Women's Health
. Nicotine/Tobacco