PENTA-LABNET is a coordination action aimed at improving the range of products and clinical use of antiretrovirals (ARVs) in HIV-infected children in resource-rich and resource-limited countries. This has been achieved through building capacity of laboratories to undertake coordinated studies on pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacogenetics of new formulations and dosing and studies of viral and immune responses to novel regimens and strategies for using ARVs in children. PENTA-LABNET forms a logical, necessary and costeffective addition to the clinical-trial-focused research activities of the longstanding PENTA network, building on its existing operational infrastructures and expertise. To respond to emerging needs identified by EU as priority areas, the objective of PENTA-LABNET has been the development of a “drug centred” research platform, aimed at providing a complimentary range of activities focussed on supporting the rational selection of optimal dosage and delivery forms of ARVs, and providing the lab basis for evaluating new ARVs strategies in children. The definition, organisation and management of integrated pharmacological and viro/immunological studies to better characterise the concentration-exposure-effect relationship has been a central activity of PENTA-LABNET. In support of these studies, standardised data collection systems have been established enabling linkage of clinical and laboratory data. In addition a central biobank has been set up to provide rapid identification of samples to be used for research. The laboratory and paediatric expertise generated in PENTA-LABNET has supported and will support rapid assessment of new and existing individual and combined ARVs. The WHO has been a key partner of PENTA-LABNET to define research priorities in ARV drug development and (also through PENTA’s extensive international links) to rapidly disseminate results to a range of stakeholders (e.g. EMEA and industries) and support the rapid translation of research findings into guidelines and practice for children in all settings.

Related documents

final1-final-publishable-summary-penta-labnet.pdf