USING LABCORP DATA TO BOOST SITE IDENTIFICATION AND PATIENT RECRUITMENT IN A COMPETITIVE SPACE

Case Study

Addressing challenges to support a rare disease study

A midsized pharmaceutical company was developing a treatment targeting newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients and selected Covance to support their global Phase III trial.

Finding participants is inherently difficult with AML because most newly diagnosed patients quickly start standard treatments. In addition, many physicians are not experienced as clinical investigators for this rare disease, adding to the difficulty of rapidly identifying and enrolling potential trial volunteers.

Applying real-world evidence to select sites

To overcome the challenge of finding investigators and patients, Covance relied on the LabCorp database, which contains de-identified health information on >70 million patients tested on more than 4,000 clinical assays. Filtering by tests specific to AML within this rich dataset, Covance pinpointed the location of AML patient clusters and determined the most optimal study sites. Coupled with Xcellerate® Trial Design, which collects nearly 50 percent of the industry’s trial data, the planning team also reviewed historical investigator performance statistics to find AML-treating physicians with proven track records.

Digging deeper into the data

While Covance was developing the sponsor’s site identification and feasibility plans, the sponsor’s competitor published interim results for a drug targeting the same indication. Suddenly, many of the sponsor’s preferred trial sites were no longer viable options as they had extended their commitment to the competitor and could not support the sponsor’s trial.

Responding to this critical development, Covance quickly revisited the LabCorp database and identified physicians who treated AML patients to supplement recruitment activities in the US. Next, Covance worked with LabCorp representatives to reach out to these physicians and gauge their interest as a primary investigator, sub-investigators to pre-identified investigators at their institution or as a referral physician.

Key Takeaways

▶ Finding sites and qualified investigators is critical to the success of rare disease trials
▶ De-identified patient data from the LabCorp database helped the planning teams locate referring physicians and potential trial locations
▶ Initial patient enrollment goals were met to keep the trial timeline on track
The bottom line

Finding AML patients for a clinical trial is difficult and this particular situation with the rival treatment only intensified the pressure. However, Covance's flexible approach to address the situation by leveraging LabCorp data represented an innovative solution to engage potential investigators and patients. The planning team was able identify new channels to contact and revised its targeted site list as a result of the efforts. Now, with 274 sites across 28 countries, patient enrollment is on target with its forecast and the sponsor has a better chance of success in this competitive landscape.