**Appendix Table C3. KQ1: Darbepoetin versus epoetin, study characteristics, Part I**

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| **study author** | **# randomized** | **design** | **drug** | **Darbepoetin dose per week** | **Epoetin dose per week** | **weight based or fix** | **duration of medication (wks)** | **Dose adjustment Darbepoetin** | **Dose adjustment Epoetin** | **iron** | **transfu-sion trigger** | **primary and secondary outcomes of the study** |
| **Glaspy 2002, Part A** | 269 | sequential dose finding study | Darbepoetin versus epoetin alfa | a: 0.5; b: 1.0; c: 1.5; d: 2.25; e: 4.5; f: 6.0 and g: 8.0 µg/kg qw | 150 IU/kg tiw | darb weight based, epo weight based | 12 | no dose adjustment | Increasing: if Hb increase < 1.0 g/dL at wk 8 EPO increased to 300 IU/kg tiw | NR | NR | safety, Hb response, Hb levels, RBCT, QoL |
| **Glaspy 2006** | 1,220 | phase 3, non-inferiority trial | Darbepoetin versus epoetin alfa | 1 x 200 µg q2w | 40,000 IU qw | darb fixed, epo fixed | 16 | dose escalation permitted at wk 5 if the Hb increase < 1 g/dL.; withheld if Hb > 13 g/dL at any time, and reinstated at 75% of the previously administered dose after Hb to ≤ 12 g/dL | dose escalation permitted at wk 5 if the Hb increase < 1 g/dL.; withheld if Hb > 13 g/dL at any time, and reinstated at 75% of the previously administered dose after Hb to ≤ 12 g/dL  Rules changed from a mandatory requirement to physician decision | NR | Hb ≤ 8 g/dL | RBCT, safety, Hb response, QoL |
| **Schwartzberg 2004, a-c** | 318 | to validate patient questionnaire | Darbepoetin versus epoetin alfa | 200 µg q2w | 40,000 IU qw | darb fixed, epo fixed | 16 | Increasing: if Hb increase < 1.0 g/dL at wk 4 Darb increased to 300 µg q2w; Stopping: drug was withheld if Hb level > 13.0 g/dL and reinstated at the previous dose if Hb < 13 g/dL. | Increasing: if Hb increase < 1.0 g/dL at wk 4 EPO increased to 60,000 IU qw; Stopping: drug was withheld if Hb level > 13.0 g/dL and reinstated at the previous dose if Hb < 13 g/dL. | NR | NR | validate patient satisfaction questionnaire, efficacy (Hb, Hct, RBCT), safety |

**Appendix Table C3. KQ1: Darbepoetin versus Epoetin, Study Characteristics, Part I (continued)**

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| **study author** | **# randomized** | **design** | **drug** | **Darbepoetin dose per week** | **Epoetin dose per week** | **weight based or fix** | **duration of medication (wks)** | **Dose adjustment Darbepoetin** | **Dose adjustment Epoetin** | **iron** | **transfu-sion trigger** | **primary and secondary outcomes of the study** |
| **Waltzman 2005** | 358 | effectiveness study to compare Hb response rates | Darbepoetin versus epoetin alfa | 200 µg q2w | 40,000 IU qw | darb fixed, epo fixed | 12 to 16 | Increasing: if Hb increase < 1.0 g/dL at wk 6 Darb increased to 300 µg q2w; Decreasing: if Hb rise > 1.0 g/dL in 2 wks dose decreased by 25%; Stopping: drug was withheld if Hb level > 13.0 g/dL resumed at 25% dose reduction when Hb < 12 g/dL. | Increasing: if Hb increase < 1.0 g/dL at wk 4 EPO increased to 60,000 IU qw; Decreasing: if Hb rise > 1.0 g/dL in 2 wks dose decreased by 25%; Stopping: drug was withheld if Hb level > 13.0 g/dL, resumed at 25% dose reduction when Hb < 12 g/dL. | 325 mg/d oral in each arm, i.v if not tolerated | NR | Hb response, RBCTs, QoL,  safety |
| **Kotsori 2006** | 110 | NR | Darbepoetin versus epoetin | 150 µg qw | 10,000 IU tiw | darb fixed, epo fixed | 8 | If no response after 4 wks dose was doubled | If no response after 4 wks dose was doubled | NR | NR | Hb increase, QoL assessment using FACT-An scale,  transfusion |