



A sponsor's guide to smarter site partnerships

Full enrolment in 18 months, through a pandemic

How we secured global start-up for a multinational geographic atrophy trial, and moved the programme into Phase III.

286

patients enrolled, all
aged 50+

78

sites activated

7

countries

18

months to full enrolment

Study snapshot

A Phase IIb trial built on imaging precision

Study type

Multinational Phase II/III programme in geographic atrophy (GA)

TFS services

Full-service CRO delivery over 18 months

Endpoints tracking GA progression over 12 months

FAF · fundus autofluorescence

BCVA · best-corrected visual acuity

SD-OCT · spectral-domain OCT

The challenge

Four pressures, all at once

01**High screen failure rates**

A narrow eligible population made every screened patient count.

02**Complex regulatory environments**

Seven countries, each with its own regulatory and ethics path.

03**COVID-19 restrictions**

Limited site access threatened monitoring, compliance and data quality.

04**Specialised site requirements**

Imaging infrastructure, certified technicians and motivated investigators.

How we delivered

Four moves that protected the timeline

01 Therapeutic depth

We applied our prior GA and retina trial experience and partnered with sites that had strong imaging capabilities and highly motivated principal investigators.

02 Change management

We aligned sponsor and sites on every protocol change. Full transparency kept site initiation on schedule.

03 COVID-19 mitigation

We deployed a risk plan, remote monitoring and a dedicated recovery team to secure compliance and data quality.

04 Operational execution

Country-specific feasibility, regulatory planning, early site engagement and a thorough infrastructure assessment at every site. Start-up ran smoothly and recruitment followed.

The start-up path

From feasibility to Phase III



The outcome

Full enrolment in 18 months across 78 sites in seven countries.

Pandemic disruption and high screen failure rates did not slow the study. We secured timely site activation, patient engagement and protocol compliance from first site to last patient.

The programme advanced into Phase III.

Why sponsors choose TFS for ophthalmology

88%

team retention, 8 percentage points above the industry average.

5

therapeutic areas, not fifty. Our leads know the indication before kickoff.

40+

countries, with therapeutic leads who hold direct decision-making authority.