Treatment Selection in Multiple Sclerosis: Results of a Physician Survey

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CONCLUSIONS
- Physicians reported that approximately 95% of their patients with MS are currently treated with a first-line DMT
- The most important attributes influencing DMT selection for a treatment-naïve patient were: efficacy, safety, tolerability, and consultation with an expert clinician.
- Results were similar for MS specialists and general neurologists
- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) were most common among the studies reviewed (48.5% of all studies reviewed were RCTs, with 36% of the RCTs being placebo-controlled and 26% being double-blind RCTs).
- Approximately one-fourth (24.4%) of the physicians reported using other medications, predominantly undertaking immunomodulatory therapy, such as interferon, and biologic therapy.
- Informed consent form
- Currently treating a minimum of 20 patients with MS
- Willing and able to provide informed consent to participate in the research
- Adults (≥18 years of age)
- Eligibility Criteria

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND
- Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex, heterogeneous disease with multiple potential etiologies
- Although there is no cure for MS, 225,000 and 350,000 new patients diagnosed (2007–2012) have demonstrated the need for continued attention and research
- Self-report medication use in a global neuroscience network, InterSept (EMS) (in 2008–2010), was available in 12 countries

METHODS
Study Design and Participants
- This cross-sectional study consisted of an internet-basedpanel (n=102) completed by board-certified neurologists who had completed 2012–2013 surveys
- 102 study participants were randomized to one of two groups to ensure the anonymity of responses
- Participants were stratified by general neurologists (89.2%) and MS specialists (10.8%), all participants with a diagnosis of MS included in the study
- The number of general neurologists versus MS specialists was specified in 86.3%, 84.3%, and 87.3% of the surveys for treatment-naive, relapse-onset, and secondary-progressive MS, respectively

RESULTS
Eligibility Criteria
- Physicians reported that approximately 95% of their patients with MS are currently treated with a first-line DMT
- Physicians reported that approximately 95% of their patients with MS are currently treated with a first-line DMT

DMT Prescribing Behavior
- Approximately two-thirds of physicians (65.7%) reported having patients who currently had no treatment
- In the majority of cases (68.6%), physicians reported treating patients with a second-line DMTs

Medication Attributes
- Approximately 95% of physicians reported treating patients with a first-line DMT
- Approximately one-fourth (24.4%) of the physicians reported using other medications, predominantly undertaking immunomodulatory therapy, such as interferon, and biologic therapy.

DISCUSSION
- The results of this study provide valuable insights into the current treatment landscape for patients with MS
- Physicians in this study reported that the majority of their patients with MS are currently treated with a first-line DMT
- These findings are consistent with previous studies, indicating the importance of first-line treatments in MS management
- The results also highlight the need for continued research and development of effective treatment options for MS

Figure 1. Where Percentage of Patients Prescribed Individual DMTs, as Reported by Physicians

Figure 2. MS Events Influencing the Physician’s Decision to Switch Medications

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2. Ranking of Medication Attributes Considered Important in Selecting a DMT

Table 3. Type of Multiple Sclerosis, Overall Treatment Method, and MS Event

REFERENCE

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