Abstract: P1641

Type: LB Poster

Abstract Category: Late Breaking News

Background: Natalizumab has been shown to be highly effective in improving clinical and MRI outcomes in RRMS. Long-term treatment effects including systematic follow-up with MRI in larger real-world cohorts have not been reported.

Objective: To investigate whether long-term (>2-year) treatment effects observed on clinical outcomes with natalizumab are similarly observed on MRI outcomes

Methods: Retrospective, longitudinal, multinational (Belgium, Czech Republic) and multicenter cohort of patients continuously treated with natalizumab of ≥24 months. Baseline MRI scan ≤6 month prior to natalizumab treatment acquired and ≥1 MRI scan of sufficient quality on natalizumab treatment. New/enlarging lesions and percentage of brain volume change (PBVC) were derived by an automated algorithm by Icometrix. We report the interim analysis of patients from the Czech cohort. The analysis including the Belgian cohort is ongoing and will be presented at the congress with further analysis on MRI (lesions and volumes) and clinical outcomes.

Results: 162 RRMS patients from the Czech cohort with mean EDSS prior to natalizumab treatment 3.4 (SD 1.17) and mean follow-up time on natalizumab treatment of 3.1 (SD 1.14) years. The majority of discontinuation occurred due to safety concerns in anti-JCV antibody positive patients, which decreases sample size over time. The proportion of patients with a new/enlarging FLAIR lesion decreased over time, with the most marked reduction after the first year of treatment. 14.9% (23 of 154 patients), experienced a new/enlarging FLAIR lesion in year 1 of treatment. Proportions of patients in the following years were 4.4% (6/137), 3.4% (4/119), 2.7% (2/73) and 2.7% (1/37) for year 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Annualized brain volume loss (PBVC) occurred at a rate of -0.24% (95% CI -2.1, 1.61; N=145) in year 1 of treatment. In the following years PBVC was -0.26% (95% CI -1.78, 1.25; N=145), -0.22% (95% CI -1.84, 1.4; N=118), -0.18% (95% CI -1.65, 1.28; N=71), -0.26% (95% CI -1.29, 0.78; N=35) for year 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

Conclusion: In line with previous results on treatment effects of natalizumab on clinical outcomes, this retrospective analysis with systematic long-term follow-up with MRI shows a marked reduction of occurrence of new/enlarging FLAIR lesions after 1 year of natalizumab treatment. Brain atrophy rates are in the range of the atrophy rate in healthy individuals, further supporting the long-term benefits of natalizumab treatment.

Disclosure: Supported by Biogen.

DH: has received compensation for travel, speaker honoraria and consultant fees from Biogen, Novartis, Merck, Bayer, Sanofi Genzyme, and Teva, as well as research funding from Biogen.

TU: has received financial support for conference travel and honoraria from Biogen, Novartis, Genzyme and Merck.

MV: has received speaker honoraria and consultant fees from Biogen, Novartis, Merck, and Teva, as well as research funding from Biogen.

JK, ZS: have received research funding from Biogen

VvP: has received travel grants from Biogen, Bayer, Genzyme, Merck, Teva and Novartis. His institution receives honoraria for consultancy and lectures from Biogen, Bayer, Genzyme, Merck, Roche, Teva and Novartis as well as research funding from Novartis and Bayer

AL: has received research funding, honoraria as a speaker and member of advisory boards from Biogen, Sanofi Genzyme, Merck, Novartis, Bayer, Roche, Teva

BvW: has received research funding and travel grants, honoraria for MS expert advice and speakers fees from: Bayer, Biogen, Sanofi Genzyme, Merck, Novartis, Roche and Teva

AR: research manager at Icometrix
WvH: co-founder and shareholder of Icometrix

QD, MF, RH, HK: employees of and may hold stock and/or stock options in Biogen.