

## Disease Modifying Treatments (DMTs) in Germany – Changes in treatment patterns

Alexander Stahmann<sup>1\*</sup>, Firas Fneish<sup>1\*</sup>, Kerstin Eichstädt<sup>1</sup>, Peter Flachenecker<sup>2</sup>, Tim Friede<sup>3</sup>, Judith Haas<sup>4,5</sup>, Christoph Kleinschnitz<sup>6</sup>, Dieter Pöhlau<sup>5,7</sup>, Otto Rienhoff<sup>8</sup>, Paulus S Rommer<sup>9,10</sup>, Uwe K. Zettl<sup>9</sup>

*\*both authors contributed equally.*

<sup>1</sup> MS Forschungs- und Projektentwicklungs-gGmbH, Hannover, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Neurological Rehabilitation Center Quellenhof, Bad Wildbad, Germany,

<sup>3</sup> Department of Medical Statistics, University Medical Center Göttingen, Georg August University Göttingen, Göttingen,

<sup>4</sup> MS-Center, Jewish Hospital Berlin, Berlin,

<sup>5</sup> German MS Society, Hannover,

<sup>6</sup> Department of Neurology, University Hospital Essen, Essen,

<sup>7</sup> Department of Neurology, German Red Cross - Kamillus-Clinic, Asbach, Göttingen, Göttingen,

<sup>8</sup> Department of Medical Informatics, University Medical Center Göttingen, Georg August University

<sup>9</sup> Department of Neurology, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany

<sup>10</sup> Department of Neurology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

**Background:** The German MS-Register, initiated in 2001 by the German MS society (DMSG), has undergone a major technical revision between 2014 and 2016. Detailed information on disease-modifying drug treatment for multiple periods per patient is now collected.

**Objective:** To provide insights how the availability of new treatment options changed treatment patterns.

**Methods:** For a subset of patients (relapsing-remitting MS, receiving DMT treatment in their last visit, detailed information on DMT available, N=4,239) historical and current DMTs were exported from the database. Patients were attributed to one of the following three groups according to DMT starting date: 1) before 2006 [N=794], 2) after 2006 but before 2011 [N=1,482] and 3) beginning in 2011 [N=1,963]. The dates were chosen based on the emergence of major new treatment options after market authorization.

**Results:** For the 1<sup>st</sup> group the most frequently used initial DMTs were interferons (IFN) (76.9%), followed by glatirameracetate (GLAT) (15.9%), azathioprine (AZA) (3.9%) and others (3.1%). Secondary treatment options were mostly (other) IFN (28.2%) followed by GLAT (13.6%), natalizumab (NAT) (10.7%), fingolimod (FYD) (7.5%) and others. 25% of patients with initial DMT before 2006 are either still on the initial DMT or have discontinued the treatment.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> group initial DMTs were still primarily IFN (67.2%) and GLAT (24.1%). NAT was used as first line treatment in 4.4% of patients. Secondary treatments for the 2<sup>nd</sup> group were mostly IFNs (22.7%) followed by FYD (12.2%), GLAT (11.9%) and NAT (11.4%). 24.9% are either still on the initial DMT or have discontinued the treatment.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> group initial DMTs were again mostly IFNs (68.7%) followed by GLAT (22.8%) and NAT (3.4%). Secondary treatment options were in the majority of cases IFNs (21.8%) followed by FYD (11.5%), GLAT (10.9%), NAT (10.1%) and dimethyl fumarate (DMF) (6.2%). 28.7% of

the patients in this group are either still on the initial DMT or have discontinued the treatment.

**Conclusion:** The availability of new treatment options significantly changed the prescription patterns in Germany. Our analysis showed that in line with the guidelines most patients are initially treated with IFN or GLAT. Depending on the duration since initial DMT start secondary DMTs differed quite a lot. Interestingly, throughout all three groups, a substantial proportion of patients (approximately 25%) did not switch treatment.

#### **Disclosures:**

*Peter Flachenecker* has received speaker's fees and honoraria for advisory boards from Almirall, Bayer, Biogen, Genzyme, Merck-Serono, Novartis, Roche and Teva. He has participated in pharmaceutical company sponsored trials by Almirall, Biogen Idec and Novartis. None resulted in a conflict of interest.

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