

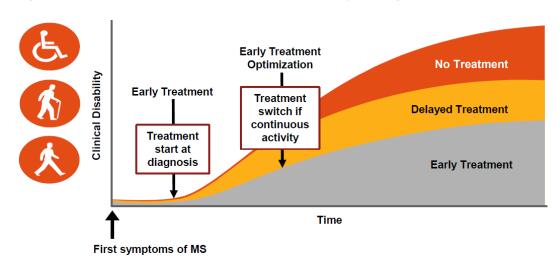
# Therapeutic Benefits and Risks of Disease Modifying Therapies for MS

Margaret Hansen, PharmD December 10, 2020



### **DMT Treatment Goals**

- DMT: Disease Modifying Therapy
- NEDA: No Evidence of Disease Activity
- Progressive MS: NEDA, slow disability progression

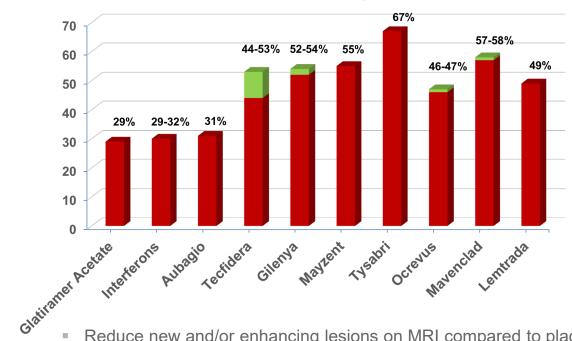


Adapted from: Ziemssen T, et al. J Neurol. 2016



### Effectiveness of DMT

#### **Percent Reduction in Relapse Rates**



Reduce new and/or enhancing lesions on MRI compared to placebo



# Self-Injectable DMT

Rebif Rebidose<sup>®</sup>, Avonex<sup>®</sup>, Betaseron<sup>®</sup>, Extavia<sup>®</sup>, Plegridy<sup>®</sup>

#### Common Side Effects:

- Injection-site reactions
- Flu-like symptoms

#### **Less Common Side Effects:**

- Depression
- Thyroid abnormalities
- Blood count or liver abnormalities

**Monitoring**: blood count, liver function test, thyroid function

# Copaxone<sup>®</sup>, Glatopa<sup>®</sup>, Glatiramer Acetate (Mylan<sup>®</sup>)

Maximum effectiveness after 6-12 months

#### Common Side Effects:

- Injection-site reactions
- Lipoatrophy

#### **Less Common Side Effects:**

- Immediate post-injection reactions (chest pain, shortness of breath, anxiety, palpitations, flushing)
- Chest pain

Monitoring: none



# Tecfidera® Family (Fumarates)

Oral Capsules

Tecfidera<sup>®</sup>, Dimethyl Fumarate, Vumerity<sup>®</sup>, Bafiertam<sup>®</sup>

#### Common Side Effects:

- GI: nausea, heart burn, stomach pain, diarrhea, vomiting
- Flushing: redness, heat, itching, rash

#### Less Common Side Effects

- Abnormal liver tests
- Low lymphocytes
- РМІ

# Risk factors for PML:

older age, low lymphocytes

**Monitoring**: blood count, liver function test









# Gilenya® Family (S1PRs)

Oral Tablets

Gilenya®, Mayzent®, Zeposia®

#### **Common Side Effects**

- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Back pain
- Abnormal liver tests
- Low lymphocytes (expected)

#### **Less Common Side Effects**

- Low heart rate, AV block
- Herpes viral infection
- Macular edema
- Skin cancers
- PMI
- Rebound syndrome

### Monitoring

Baseline – blood count, liver function test, ECG, HbA1c, Varicella zoster antibody, OCT eye exam, CYP2C9 genetic test (Mayzent), First-dose observation (FDO)

Routine – blood count, liver function test, OCT eye exam 3-4 months after starting medication



# Aubagio® (Teriflunomide)

#### Oral Tablet

#### **Common Side Effects**

- Hair thinning, hair loss
- GI: diarrhea, nausea
- Abnormal liver tests

#### **Less Common Side Effects**

- Low lymphocytes
- Liver Injury
- Numbness, tingling
- Increased blood pressure
- Severe allergic reactions

**Monitoring**: blood count, liver function test, blood pressure

Other Considerations: Long half-life

FDA Warning: Liver Toxicity

FDA Warning: Fetal Toxicity



# Tysabri® (natalizumab)

IV Infusion

#### **Common Side Effects**

- Infusion reactions
- Respiratory infections

#### **Less Common Side Effects**

- Rebound syndrome
- PML

#### **Risk Factors for PML**

- JC Virus antibody positive
- Longer duration of treatment
- Previous immunosuppressant therapy

### **FDA Monitoring Program (REMS)**

- JC Virus Antibody Monitoring
- Report any cases of PML

FDA Warning: PML



# Ocrevus® (ocrelizumab)

IV Infusion

### **Effectiveness for Primary Progressive MS**

 Patients taking Ocrevus were 24% less likely to have confirmed disability progression compared to placebo

#### **Common Side Effects**

- Infusion reactions
- Increased infections

#### **Less Common Side Effects**

- Low antibody levels
- Hepatitis B reactivation
- PML

### **Monitoring**:

blood count, antibody levels



## **Second Line Disease Modifying Therapies**

### Mavenclad® (cladribine)

#### **Common Side Effects:**

- Respiratory infections
- Low lymphocytes

#### **Less Common Side Effects:**

- Liver toxicity
- Herpes infections
- Cancer

FDA Warning: Fetal Toxicity

### Lemtrada® (alemtuzumab)

### **FDA Monitoring Program (REMS)**

Monthly monitoring up to 4-years after stopping medication

### Warnings

- Infusion reactions
- Autoimmune disorders
- Cancer
- Stroke

#### Serious Side Effects:

- Increased infections
- Liver injury



## Balancing the Benefits and the Risks of DMT

DMT decrease relapse rates and MRI activity DMT decrease future disability Many DMT options allow customized approach to MS Management DMT Safety Monitoring to manage risks





# Thank You

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