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A real-world study of Alemtuzumab in a cohort of Italian patients

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F. Saccà¹, C.V. Russo¹, J. Frau², P. Annovazzi³, E. Signoriello⁴, S. Bonavita⁴, R. Grasso⁵, M. Clerico⁶, C. Cordioli⁷, A. Laroni⁸, M. Capobianco⁹, V. Torri Clerici¹⁰, A. Sartori¹¹, P. Cavalla¹², G.T. Maniscalco¹³, S. La Gioia¹⁴, F. Caleri¹⁵, A. Giugno¹⁶, R. Iodice¹, A. Carotenuto¹, E. Cocco², G. Fenu², M. Zaffaroni³, D. Baroncini³, G. Lus⁴, A. Gallo¹⁷, S.F. De Mercanti⁸, C. Lapucci⁸, V. Di Francescantonio⁵, M.P. Sormani¹⁸, A. Signori¹⁸

¹NSRO Department, University of Naples Federico II, Napoli, ²Centro Sclerosi Multipla, ASSL Cagliari (ATS Sardegna); Dipartimento di Scienze Mediche e Sanità Pubblica, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, ³Multiple Sclerosis Center, ASST della Valle Olona, Hospital of Gallarate, Gallarate, ⁴University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Napoli, ⁵University of Foggia, Foggia, ⁶Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche e Biologiche, University of Torino, Torino, ⁷Multiple Sclerosis Center, ASST Spedali Civili, PO di Montichiari, Montichiari, ⁸Department of Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, Maternal and Child Health and Center of Excellence for Biomedical Research (CEBR) and IRCCS San Martino-IST, University of Genova, Genova, ⁹Neurologia-CRESM, AOU San Luigi Gonzaga, Torino, ¹⁰Neuro-immunology and Neuromuscular Diseases Unit, IRCCS Foundation Carlo Besta Neurological Institute, Milano, ¹¹Neurology Clinic, Department of Medical, Surgical, and Health Sciences, University of Trieste, Trieste, ¹²MS Center, City of Health & Science University Hospital, Torino, ¹³AORN A.Cardarelli, Napoli, ¹⁴Centro Sclerosi Multipla, ASST Papa Giovanni XXIII, Bergamo, ¹⁵Department of Neurology, Franz Tappeiner Hospital, Merano, ¹⁶University Magna Graecia of Catanzaro, Catanzaro, ¹⁷University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli', Napoli, ¹⁸Department of Health Sciences (DISSAL), Section of Biostatistics, University of Genova, Genova, Italy

Introduction: Real-world data on Alemtuzumab is limited and does not provide evidence on its effectiveness after different Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs).

Objectives: To evaluate the impact of clinical variables on ARR and No Evidence of Disease Activity (NEDA) during Alemtuzumab therapy.

Aims: To provide real-world data on the efficacy of Alemtuzumab.

Methods: We retrospectively included patients from eighteen Italian MS-centers who started Alemtuzumab, and recorded demographics, previous therapies, washout duration, relapses and EDSS. Negative-binomial regression models were used to assess the effect of factors on ARR after Alemtuzumab initiation.

Results: We included 322 patients (mean age 36.8 years, 71.1% females, median EDSS 3, mean disease duration 7.4 years, median number of previous therapies 3). 106 patients were previously treated with Fingolimod, 80 with Natalizumab, 46 with Dimethylfumarate, 35 were treatment-naïve, 30 with interferon/glatiramer acetate, 10 with Teriflunomide, 9 with other drugs and 6 with Daclizumab. Reason for switch was relapse-rate (41.3%), MRI (22.8%), JCV+ (18.2%), EDSS progression (4.9%), other (12.8%). Median follow-up was 1.94 years. Pre-Alemtuzumab ARR was 0.99, and decreased to 0.13 during Alemtuzumab ($p < 0.001$). Number of previous year relapses was associated with Alemtuzumab-ARR (RR=1.37; $p=0.011$). Washout did not impact on Alemtuzumab-ARR (median 3 months; $p=0.59$). Progression-free survival was 95% after 1 year, and 88.1% after 2 years of Alemtuzumab. EDSS improvement occurred in 13.5% after 1 year, and 23.9% after 2 years. 61.8% of patients achieved NEDA after 1 year and 53.6% after 2 years. 13.9% experienced a relapse between Alemtuzumab courses, and this was linked to higher ARR during the remaining follow-up (RR=4.00; $p < 0.001$). 25 patients dropped-out for adverse events (7), relapse-rate (6), MRI activity (5), compliance (3), other (4).

Conclusions: Alemtuzumab decreases ARR independent of previous therapy, including patients with disease activity during Natalizumab. Relapses between treatment courses are associated with higher disease activity during follow-up.

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