Characteristics of a population-based multiple sclerosis cohort treated with disease-modifying drugs in a universal healthcare setting

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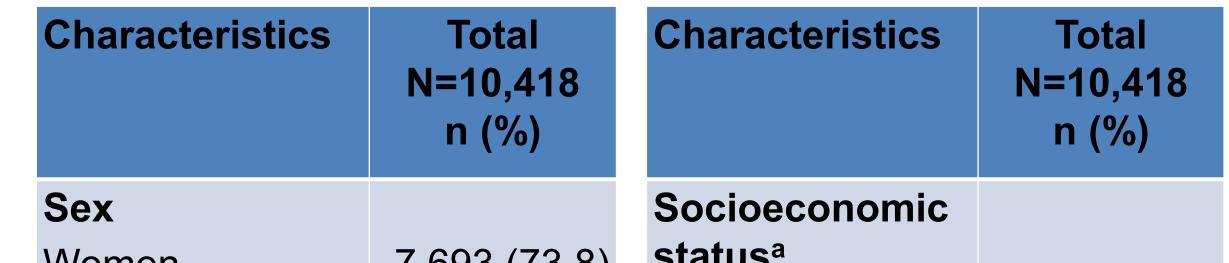
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Background

- > The efficacy of a disease-modifying drug (DMD) is typically established via short, 2-3 year clinical trials in highly select and motivated groups of people with multiple sclerosis (MS).
- \succ In clinical practice, DMDs are used for many years in a more diverse population of persons with MS.

Results

Table 1. Characteristics of the MS cohort



Summary points

Overall, 10,418 with MS filled a DMD prescription during the 22-year study period.

> Most were women:

Variations in sex distribution observed.

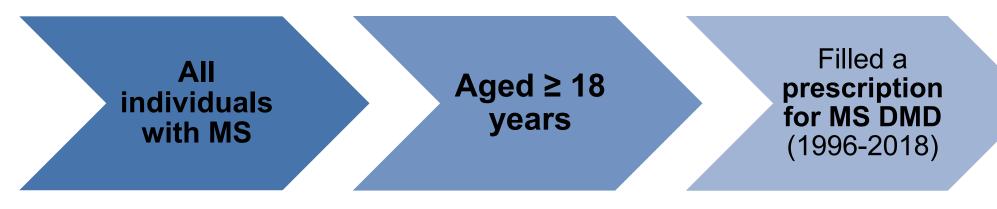
Objective

To describe the **characteristics of a population** with MS exposed to their first DMD in the realworld setting.

Methods

 \succ Linked, population-based health administrative data in four Canadian provinces: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia (see **Data sources**).

> Population:



> Study follow-up:

- Study entry: most recent of their first MS or demyelinating event or 01/January/1996
- Study end: to the earliest of death,

Nomen Men Age group at First DMD < 30 years 30 to 39 years 40 to 49 years 50 to 59 years 50 to 59 years	7,693 (73.8) 2,725 (26.2) 1,860 (17.9) 3,359 (32.2) 3,454 (33.2) 1,475 (14.2)	 status^a 1 (lowest income quintile) 2 3 4 5 (highest income quintile) Unavailable Comorbidity	1,800 (17.3) 1,962 (18.8) 2,175 (20.9) 2,179 (20.9) 2,129 (20.4) 173 (1.7)
Calendar period at first DMD 1996-2012 2013-2017	270 (2.6) 7,736 (74.3) 2,682 (25.7)	Scores 0 1 2 ≥ 3	8,673 (83.3) 1,369 (13.1) 285 (2.7) 91 (0.9)

Socioeconomic status is represented by neighborhood income quintiles based on the closest available measurement to the study entry date. Comorbidity is measured using the Charlson Comorbidity Index (modified) to exclude hemiplegia/paraplegia to avoid misclassifying MS complications as comorbidity) during the one-year period prior to the study entry date.

Table 2. Sex and age of the MS population by individual DMD class

Characteristics	Sex [female] n/Total N ^a (%)	Age at first DMD Mean (SD)	
Overall cohort	7,693/10,418 (73.8)	39.6 (10.1)	

Ranged from 65% for alemtuzumab to 77% for glatiramer acetate.

➢ Mean (SD) age at first DMD:

- Variations in the average age at first prescription fill across the different DMDs observed.
- Ranged from 35.9 (SD 10.0) years for alemtuzumab to 43.6 (SD 10.9) years for teriflunomide.

> Socioeconomic status:

The cohort was distributed evenly across the income-based quintiles (neighborhood-level).

> Patterns of treatment:

- Changed considerably between 1996-2012 vs. 2013-2017
- Increased uptake of the oral DMDs.
- Likely reflects increased availability (choice) of DMDs to treat MS.

emigration, or 31/March/2018

>Characteristics captured:

- Sex, age and DMD class: at date of 1st prescription filled
- Socioeconomic status (based on neighbourhood income)
- **Comorbidity burden** (in the year pre-study entry, using the Charlson Comorbidity Index)
- Calendar period 1996-2012 and 2013-2017 (differentiating the time periods when <5 and ≥5 individual DMD classes were available)

By individual DMD		
<u>class</u>		
Beta-interferon	4,531/6,171 (73.4)	
Glatiramer acetate	2,289/2,967 (77.1)	
Natalizumab	77/116 (66.4) ^b	
Fingolimod	42/56 (75.0) ^b	
Dimethyl fumarate	477/711 (67.1)	
Teriflunomide	238/338 (70.4)	
Alemtuzumab	24/37 (64.9) ^b	

ne total number of people with that type (class) of first DMD. Key: SD, standard deviation ^bAs per data privacy and access agreements, small cell size (<6 individuals within any group) in one or more provinces are suppressed and were not included in the total count (either the numerator or denominator).

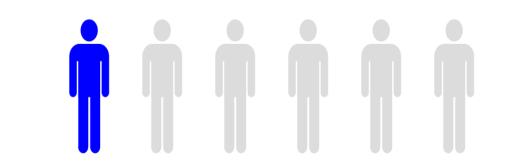
Table 3. Disease-modifying drug use in the MS population by calendar period

Data so	ources:				
Rx	H				► ((
Prescription	Hospital	Physician	Vital Statistics	Provincial Insurance Photo source: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/ health-drug-coverage	_
Acknowledgements					

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	First DMD (drug class)	First DMD filled <u>1996-2012</u> n (%) of adults with MS	First DMD filled <u>2013-2017</u> n (%) of adults with MS
al	Beta-interferon	5,569 (72.0)	602 (22.4)
COntent/hea	Glatiramer acetate	2,084 (26.9)	883 (32.9)
	Natalizumab	~ 49 (0.7) ^a	~67 (2.5) ^a
	Fingolimod	21 (0.3)	~35 (1.4) ^a
	Teriflunomide	6 (0.1)	332 (12.4)
	Dimethyl fumarate	NA	711 (26.5)
	Alemtuzumab	NA	~37 (1.4) ^a
а	Total	7,736 (100)	2,682 (100)

> Overall study population and implications:



people with MS had at least **some** comorbidity.

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≥50 years old at the time of their first DMD.

Implications

Older individuals or individuals with **comorbidity** are **typically** excluded from clinical trials.

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Key: NA, not applicable (as those individual DMDs were marketed in Canada after 2012). ^aAs per data privacy and access agreements, small cell size (<6 individuals within any group) in one or more provinces are suppressed and

were not included in the total count (the denominator remains the same).

39.7 (10.0)

39.3 (10.0)

39.6 (12.0)

41.0 (10.9)

39.1 (10.4)

43.6 (10.9)

35.9 (10.0)

Findings illustrate the need to understand the harms and benefits of DMD use in these understudied groups.

Disclosures

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BC's health research funding agency

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