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Evaluation of the use of High Efficacy Treatments (HETs) in patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis in Argentina

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Background: Disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) in multiple sclerosis (MS) can be broadly classified according to the efficacy with which they prevent MS relapses. To date, there are scarce data regarding the use of high-efficacy treatments (HETs) in LATAM.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to analyze the use of HETs in Argentina, focusing on the clinical and sociodemographic characteristics of the patients and the trend use of HET over the last years

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was done based on the Argentinian Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patient registry, RelevarEM. Patients diagnosed with Relapsing Remitting MS (RRMS) according to validated diagnosis criteria and under HETs (natalizumab, alemtuzumab, cladribine, rituximab or ocrelizumab) were included.

Results: Out of 2450 RRMS patients under a disease-modifying therapies (DMTs), 462 (19%) were currently on HETs. One-third of those patients (35%) received HETs as the first treatment. The most frequent reason for switching to a HETs was treatment failure to previous DMT (77%). The time from MS diagnosis to the first HET in treatment-naive patients was less than one year (IQR: 0-1 year) and in treatment-experienced patients it was 5 years (IQR: 3-9 years). Between 2015 and 2017 (P1), 729 patients included in RelevarEM started a new treatment, of which 85 (11.65%) were HETs. Between 2018 and 2020 (P2), 961 patients included in RelevarEM started a new treatment, of which 284 (29.55%) were HETs. When comparing P2 vs P1, a significant increase in the use of HETs is observed ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusion: Our study showed a significant trend towards and a rapid increase in the use of HET in clinical practice.

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