

Comorbidities in multiple sclerosis in Argentina: baseline data from the Argentinean MS Registry (RelevarEM)

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INTRODUCTION

No ongoing nationwide registry exists in Latin America (LATAM), a region where the disease behaves differently than in other regions. The aim of this study was to determine the global and stratified by age and MS phenotype comorbidity index in multiple sclerosis (MS) patients included in RelevarEM (the Argentinean MS registry). (Clinical Trials registry number NCT03375177)

METHODS

RelevarEM is a longitudinal, strictly observational MS and NMOSD registry in Argentina. The registry tracks the outcomes of routine clinical practice of patients with MS and NMOSD in a web-based platform that allows researchers to register and follow up their patients. For comorbidities, PIs use the Charlson comorbidity index (CCI) to calculate the comorbidity burden at registry entry. CCI was stratified in 0 and ≥ 1 and described for the entire cohort as well as stratified by age <20; 20-30; 30-40; 40-50; > 50 years and by MS phenotype.

CONCLUSION

This study describes the comorbidity burden in MS patients from Argentina. Most frequency of comorbidities were related to progressive forms of the disease and older patients. this study provides updated information on epidemiological features of MS in Argentina. Patient registries gather valuable long-term patient information from the real world which are useful to a wide range of purposes (epidemiology, economic impact, healthcare access, and aspects concerning safety and effectiveness) .

MS patients included	1,588
CCI ≥ 1 in CIS	4/103 (3.9%)
CCI ≥ 1 in RRMS	176/1,308 (13.5%)
CCI ≥ 1 in SPMS	25/87 (28.7%)
CCI ≥ 1 in PPMS	16/67 (17.4%)

RESULTS

56 centers and 98 professionals distributed throughout Argentina become part of the Registry. A total of 1588 patients with MS were included, mean age 42 ± 5 years. CCI was 0 in 86.8% while ≥ 1 was in 14.2% of patients. When stratified by age CCI ≥ 1 was 3.5% in patients less than 20 years; 5.9% in 20-29; 10.5% in 30-39; 13.9% in 40-49 and 23% in ≥ 50 years ($p < 0.001$ between groups). Regarding phenotypes, CCI ≥ 1 was 3.9% in CIS, 13.5% in RRMS; 28.7% in SPMS and 17.4% in PPMS ($p < 0.001$ between groups).

MS patients included	1,588
CCI global	
0	1,363 (85.8%)
≥ 1	225 (14.2%)
CCI ≥ 1 stratified by age groups	1/28 (3.5)
• <20	13/221 (5.9%)
• 20-29	46/438 (10.5%)
• 30-39	64/461 (13.9%)
• 40-49	101/440 (23%)
• >50	

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of included patients

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Table 2: Comorbidities stratified by disease phenotype