

Longer-Term (up to 6 Years) Efficacy of Ofatumumab in People With Recently Diagnosed and Treatment-Naive Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis

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Alit Bhatt, Haoyi Fu, and Ibolya Boer are employees of Novartis



- Ofatumumab, a fully human anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody with a 20 mg subcutaneous monthly dosing regimen, is approved for treating **relapsing multiple sclerosis (RMS) in adults**¹
- In the phase 3 ASCLEPIOS I/II trials in people with RMS, **ofatumumab** demonstrated **superior efficacy** in **reducing** the annualized relapse rate (**ARR**), **suppressing** magnetic resonance imaging (**MRI**) **lesion activity**, and **delaying disability worsening**, while maintaining a favorable safety profile versus teriflunomide²
- In the subgroup of **recently diagnosed (≤3 years) and treatment-naive (RDTN)** participants, ofatumumab showed a **superior benefit–risk profile** compared with teriflunomide, with an almost complete abrogation of inflammatory disease activity and no unexpected safety signals, **supporting its use as a first-line treatment in early RMS**³
- Results previously reported from the ASCLEPIOS I/II trials and ALITHIOS open-label extension study demonstrated **sustained efficacy** for **up to 4 years** in **RDTN** participants⁴

Objective: To assess the long-term efficacy of ofatumumab for up to 6 years in RDTN participants with RMS

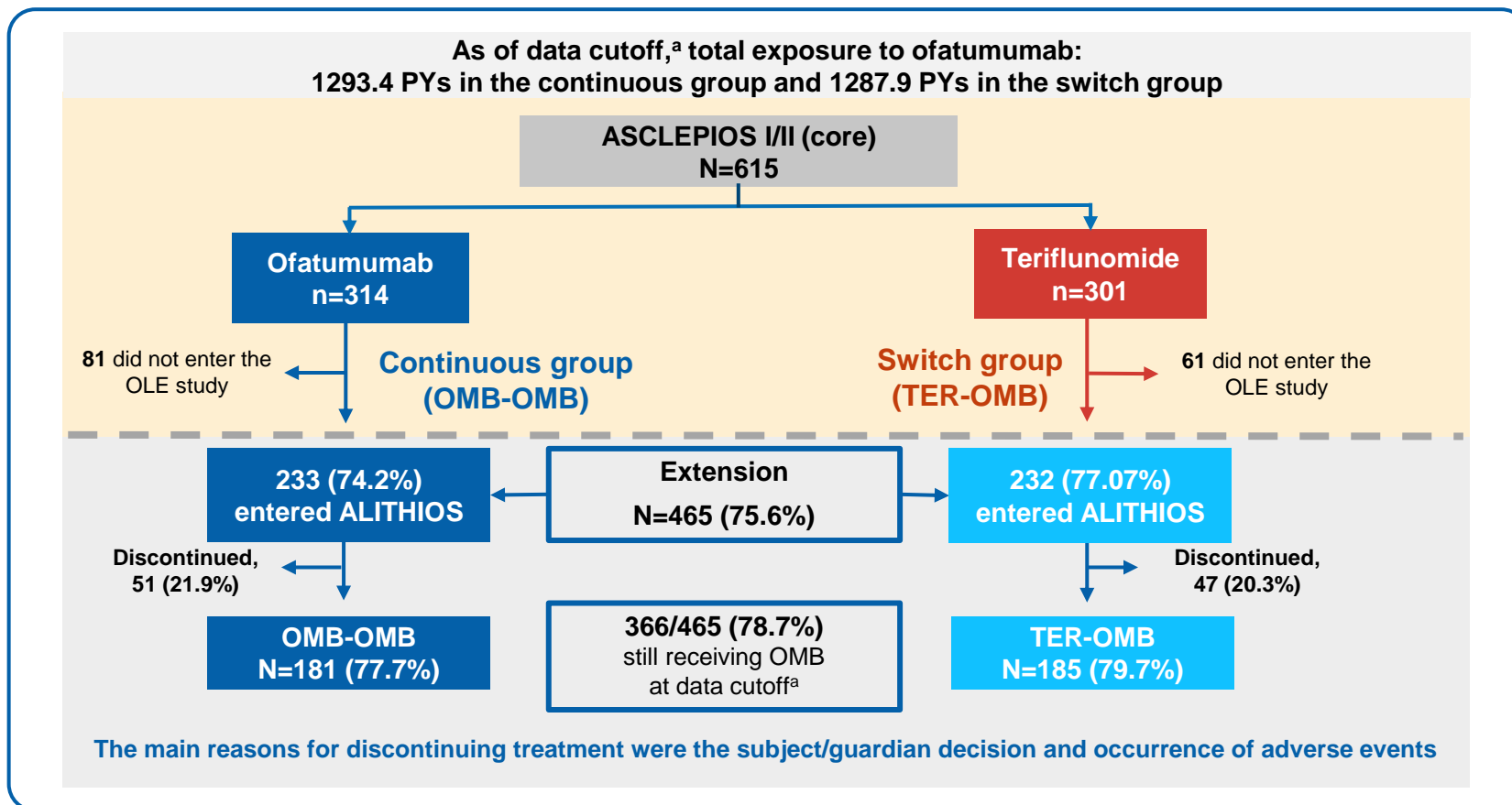
1. Kesimpta (ofatumumab). Prescribing Information. Novartis; 2024. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://www.novartis.us/sites/www.novartis.us/files/kesimpta.pdf>. 2. Hauser SL, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2020;383:546–557.

3. Gartner J, et al. *Mult Scler*. 2022;28:1562–1575. 4. Gärtner J, et al. P052. Presented at: European Committee of Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS), Amsterdam, the Netherlands; October 26–28, 2022. **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤3 years) and treatment-naive; **RMS**, relapsing multiple sclerosis.

Participant disposition and key assessments



Participant disposition – RDTN subgroup



Key assessments

- **ARR**
- **Brain MRI outcomes**
 - Mean number of gadolinium-enhancing (Gd+) T1 lesions per scan
 - Number of new or enlarging T2 (neT2) lesions per year
- **3- and 6-month confirmed disability worsening (3/6mCDW)**
- **No evidence of disease activity (NEDA-3)^b**

^aData cutoff: 25-Sep-2023 [up to 6 years]. ^bDefined as no 6mCDW, no confirmed MS relapse, no neT2 lesions compared to baseline, and no Gd+ T1 lesions.

These analyses include cumulative data from the RDTN subgroups randomized to ofatumumab in the core phase (continuous group) and those originally randomized to teriflunomide and switching to ofatumumab in ALITHIOS (switch group).

ARR, annualized relapse rate; **Gd+**, gadolinium-enhancing; **MRI**, magnetic resonance imaging; **MS**, multiple sclerosis; **OLE**, open-label extension; **OMB-OMB**, continuous ofatumumab; **PYs**, patient years; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤ 3 years) and treatment-naïve; **TER**, teriflunomide; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

Baseline demographics and disease characteristics



Characteristics ^a	Continuous OMB-OMB group (N=314)	Switch TER-OMB group (N=301)	
	Baseline from core (N=314)	Baseline from core (N=301)	Baseline from OLE (N=232)
Age, years	36.8±9.40	35.7±9.03	37.7±8.99
BMI, kg/m ²	25.93±6.15	26.19±6.06	25.71±5.71
Female, n (%)	217 (69.1)	195 (64.8)	155 (66.8)
Time since MS diagnosis, years	0.58±0.63	0.53±0.51	2.44±0.60
Time since first MS symptom, years	3.41±3.96	3.25±4.28	5.16±4.23
EDSS at baseline	2.30±1.2	2.28±1.2	2.20±1.2
Number of relapses in the last 12 months prior to screening	1.30±0.70	1.4±0.72	0.10±0.41
Number of Gd+ T1 lesions	1.8±4.35	1.4±2.79	0.7±2.01
Proportion of participants free of Gd+ T1 lesions, n (%)	173 (55.1)	171 (56.8)	169 (72.8)
Total volume of T2 lesions, cm ³	10.1±12.23	8.3±8.83	NA ^b

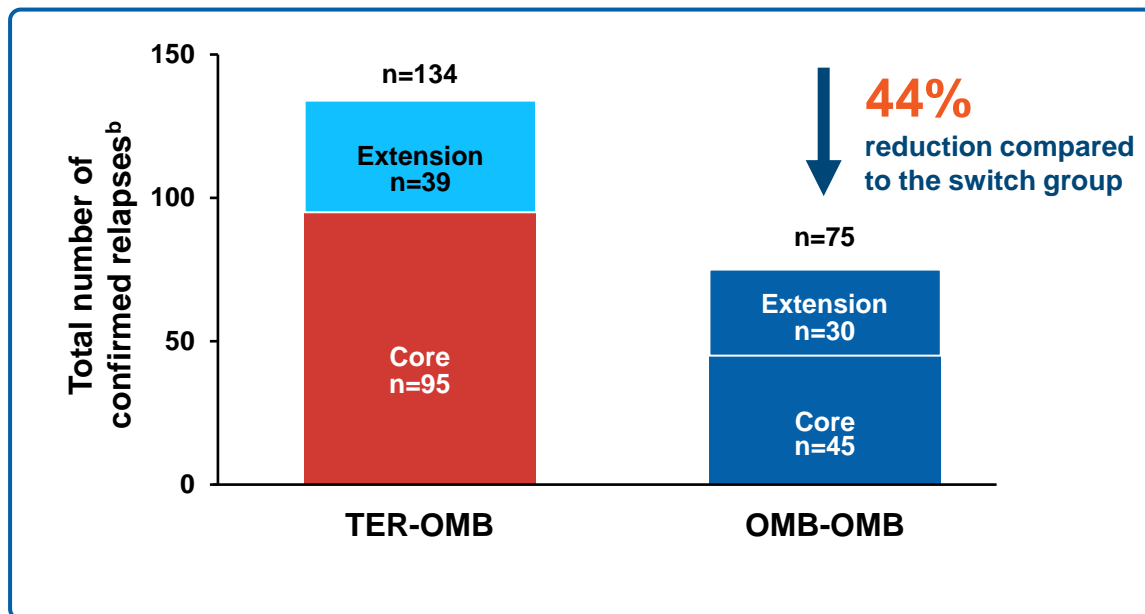
- Characteristics of RDTN participants were **typical of patients with early RMS** and were generally **balanced** between treatment groups

^aData are represented as mean±SD unless specified otherwise; for participants newly switched to OMB, their baseline values from the extension study contribute to the overall summary. ^bData are not collected for baseline from extension. **BMI**, body mass index; **EDSS**, Expanded Disability Status Scale; **Gd+**, gadolinium-enhancing; **MS**, multiple sclerosis; **OLE**, open-label extension, **OMB-OMB**, continuous ofatumumab; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤3 years) and treatment-naïve; **RMS**, relapsing multiple sclerosis; **SD**, standard deviation; **TER**, teriflunomide; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

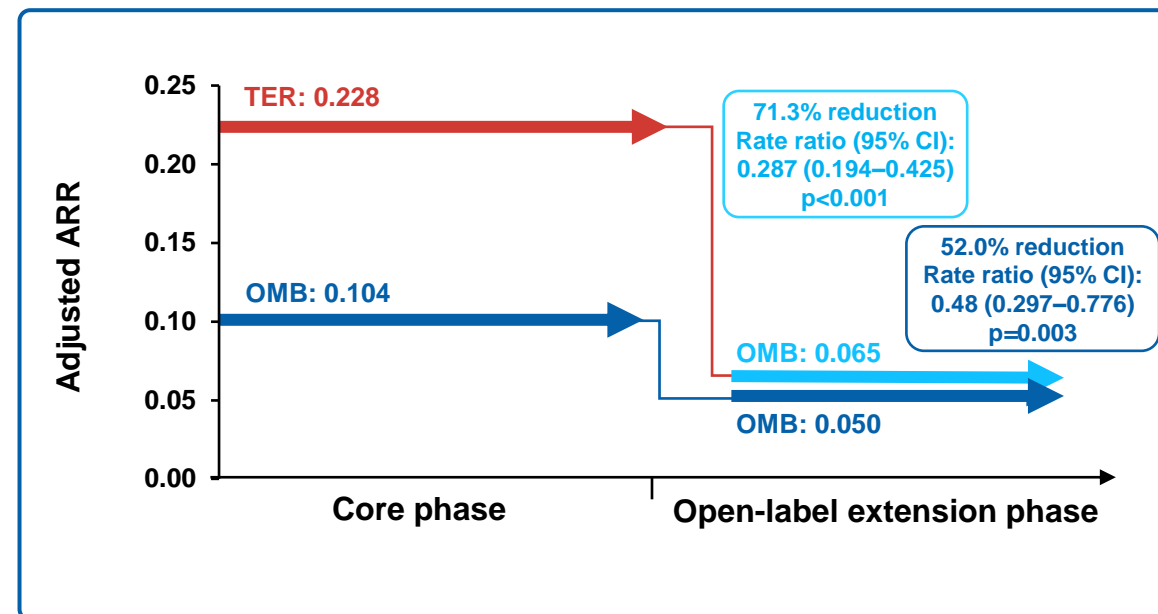
A sustained low ARR was observed in RDTN participants receiving first-line ofatumumab for up to 6 years



Cumulative number of relapses up to 6 years



Within-group comparison^a between the core and extension phase



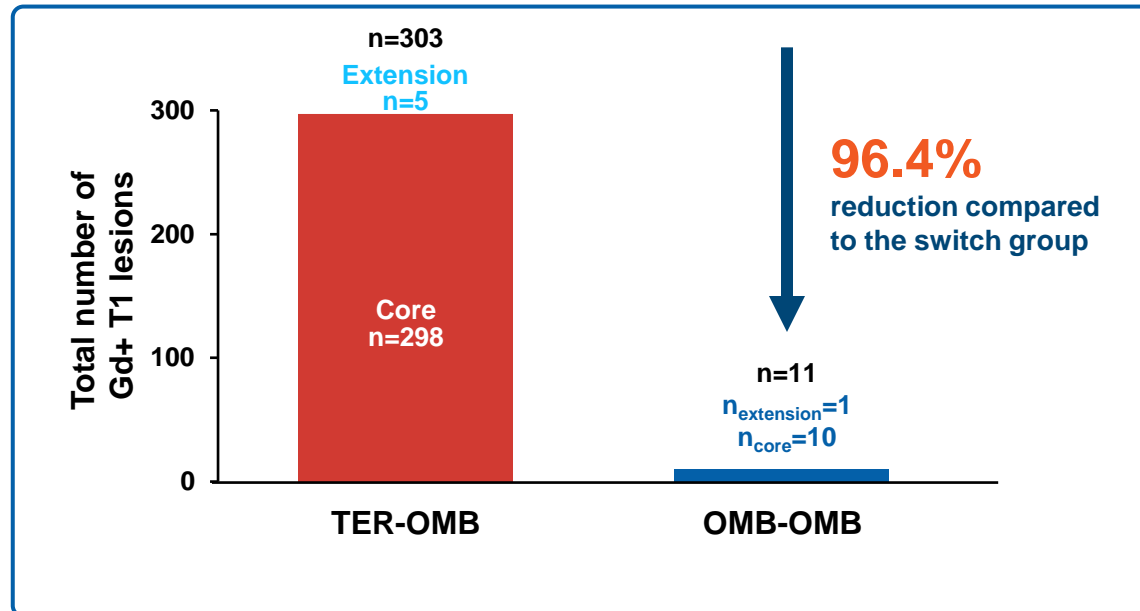
- Over a period of up to 6 years, **first-line continuous versus later initiation of ofatumumab** was associated with a **44% reduction** in the **cumulative number of relapses**
- **ARR remained low** with first-line continuous ofatumumab, reaching an adjusted rate in the extension period that corresponds to **1 relapse for every 20 years**
- **Switching** from teriflunomide to ofatumumab resulted in a **pronounced 71.3% reduction in ARR**

^aObtained from fitting a piecewise negative binomial model for the time period core phase and extension phase with log-link, adjusted for treatment and region as factors, number of relapses in previous year, baseline EDSS, baseline number of Gd+ lesions and the patient's age at baseline as covariates. The natural log of the time-in-study (in years) by period is used as offset to annualize the relapse rate in each period. Baseline variables are from the core study baseline. ^bConfirmed relapses are those accompanied by a clinically relevant change in the EDSS. **ARR**, annualized relapse rate; **CI**, confidence interval; **EDSS**, Expanded Disability Status Scale; **Gd+**, gadolinium-enhancing; **OMB-OMB**, continuous ofatumumab; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤ 3 years) and treatment-naive; **TER**, teriflunomide; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

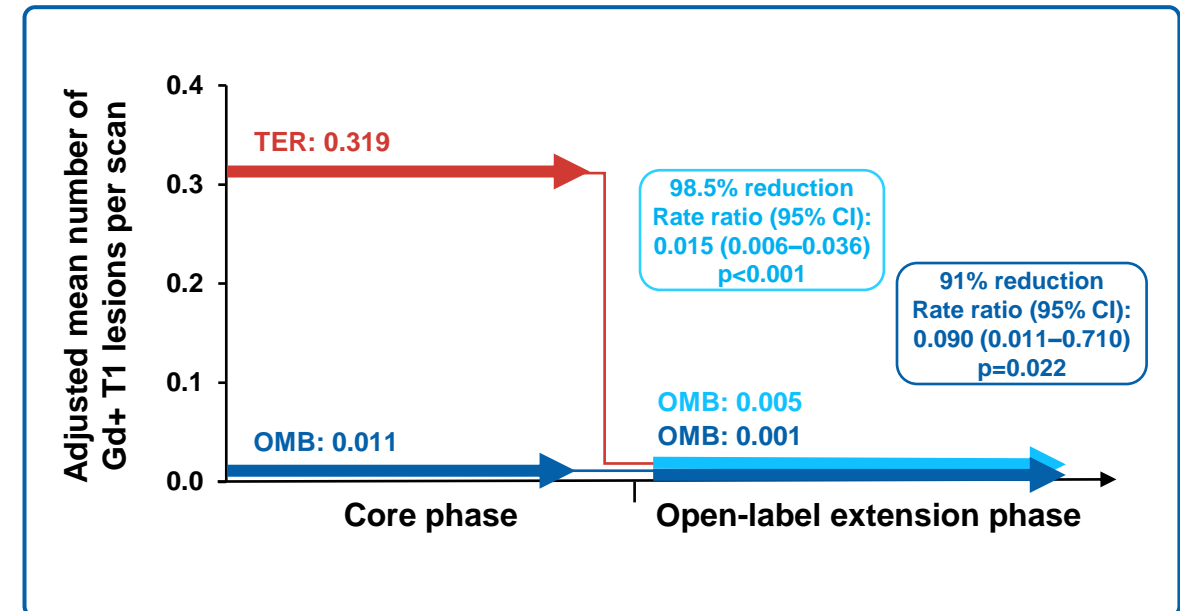
Gd+ T1 lesion activity was almost completely suppressed in RDTN participants receiving ofatumumab for up to 6 years



Cumulative number of Gd+ T1 lesions up to 6 years



Within-group comparison^a between the core and extension phase



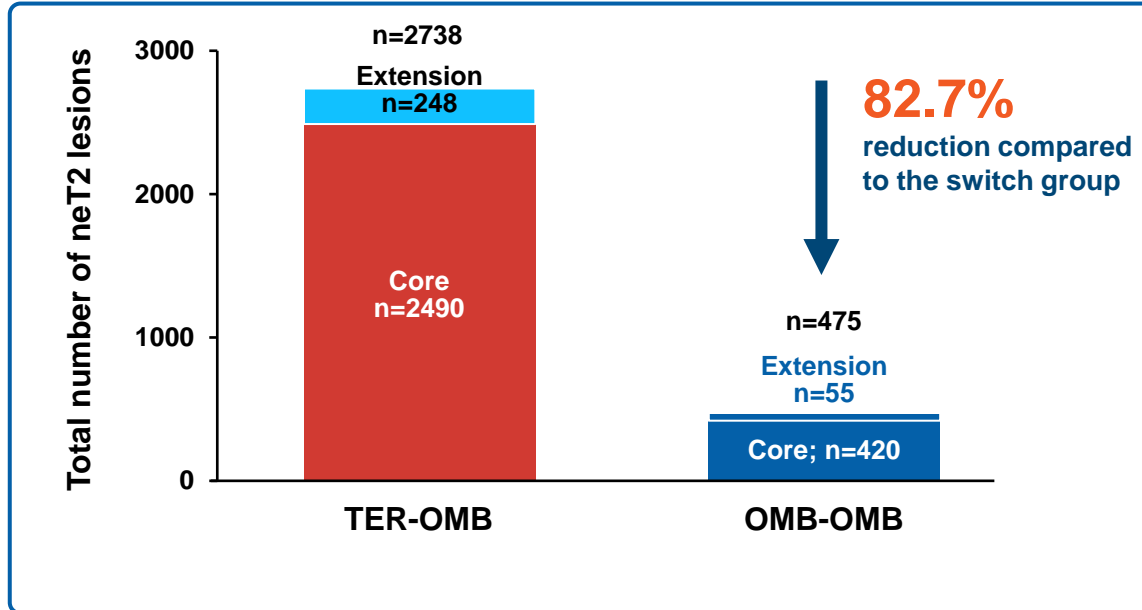
- Over a period of up to 6 years, **first-line continuous versus later initiation of ofatumumab** was associated with a **96.4% reduction** in the **cumulative number of Gd+ T1 lesions**
- **First-line continuous ofatumumab** treatment maintained an **almost complete suppression** of **Gd+ T1** lesion activity up to Year 6
- **Switching** from teriflunomide to ofatumumab **led to a rapid suppression** of **Gd+ T1 lesion activity** to closely match the continuous ofatumumab group

^aEstimated from fitting a piecewise negative binomial model for the time period core phase and extension phase with log-link, adjusted for treatment and region as factors and baseline number of T1 Gd+ lesions and patient's age at baseline as covariates. The natural log of the number of scans with evaluable Gd+ lesion counts by period is used as offset to obtain the lesion rate per scan in each period. Baseline variables are from the core study baseline. All p values are nominal. CI, confidence interval; Gd+, gadolinium-enhancing; OMB, ofatumumab; OMB-OMB, continuous ofatumumab; RDTN, recently diagnosed (≤ 3 years) and treatment-naive; TER, teriflunomide; TER-OMB, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

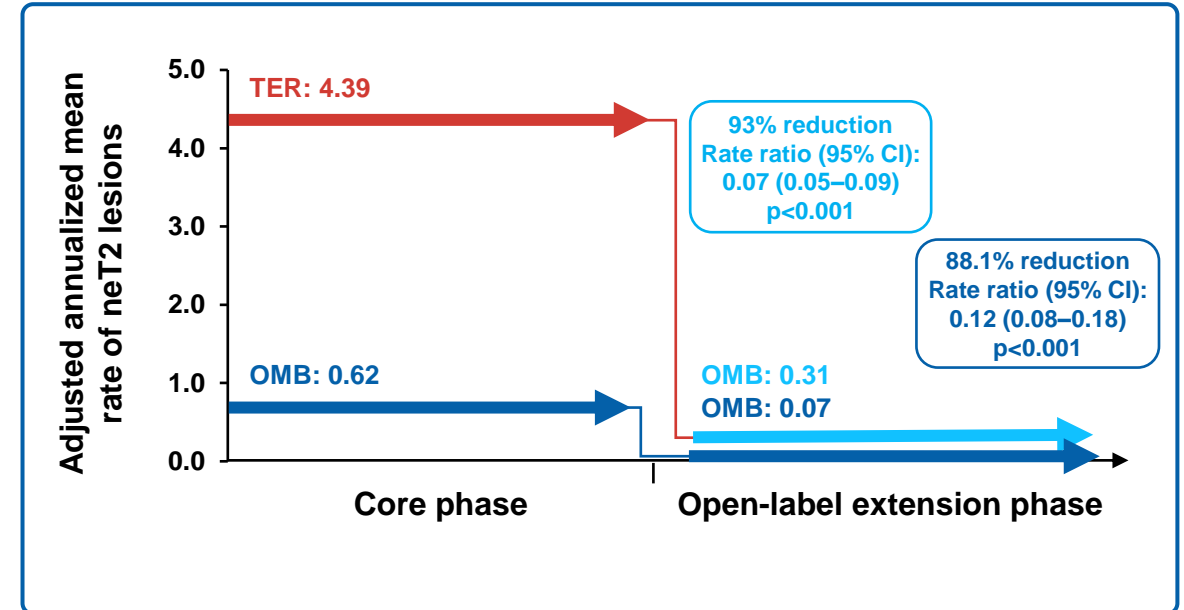
A significant and sustained reduction in the number of neT2 lesions was observed in RDTN participants receiving ofatumumab for up to 6 years



Cumulative number of neT2 lesions up to 6 years



Within-group comparison between the core and extension phase



- Over a period of up to 6 years, **first-line initiation of ofatumumab** was associated with an **82.7% reduction** in the **cumulative number of neT2 lesions**
- **First-line continuous ofatumumab** profoundly suppressed the **number of neT2 lesions** up to Year 6
- **Switching** from teriflunomide to ofatumumab resulted in a **profound reduction** in the number of **neT2 lesions**

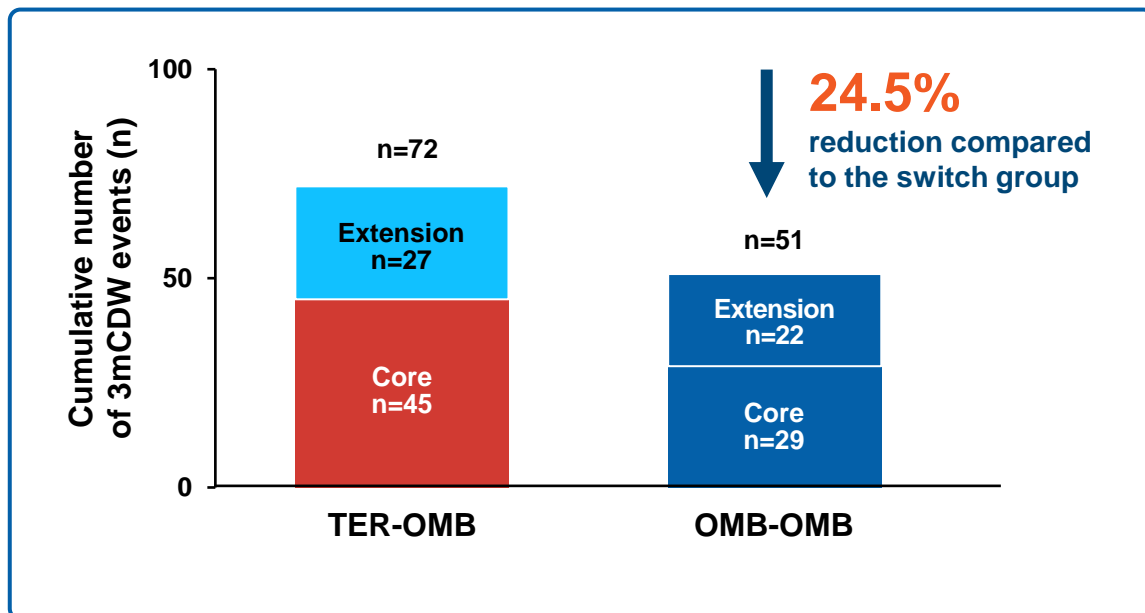
All p values are nominal; additional details including the CIs are presented in the backup slides.

CI, confidence interval; **neT2**, new or enlarging T2; **OMB**, ofatumumab; **OMB-OMB**, continuous ofatumumab; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤ 3 years) and treatment-naive; **TER**, teriflunomide; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

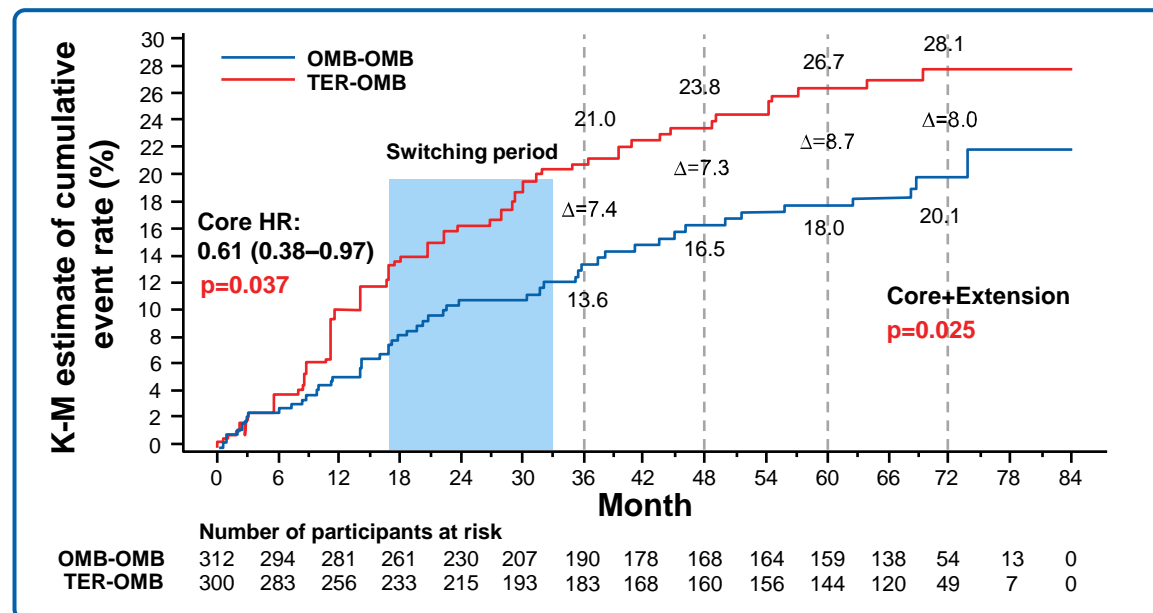
First-line ofatumumab treatment in RDTN participants was associated with a significantly lower number of 3mCDW events up to 6 years



Cumulative number of 3mCDW events up to 6 years



Cumulative event rate – 3mCDW



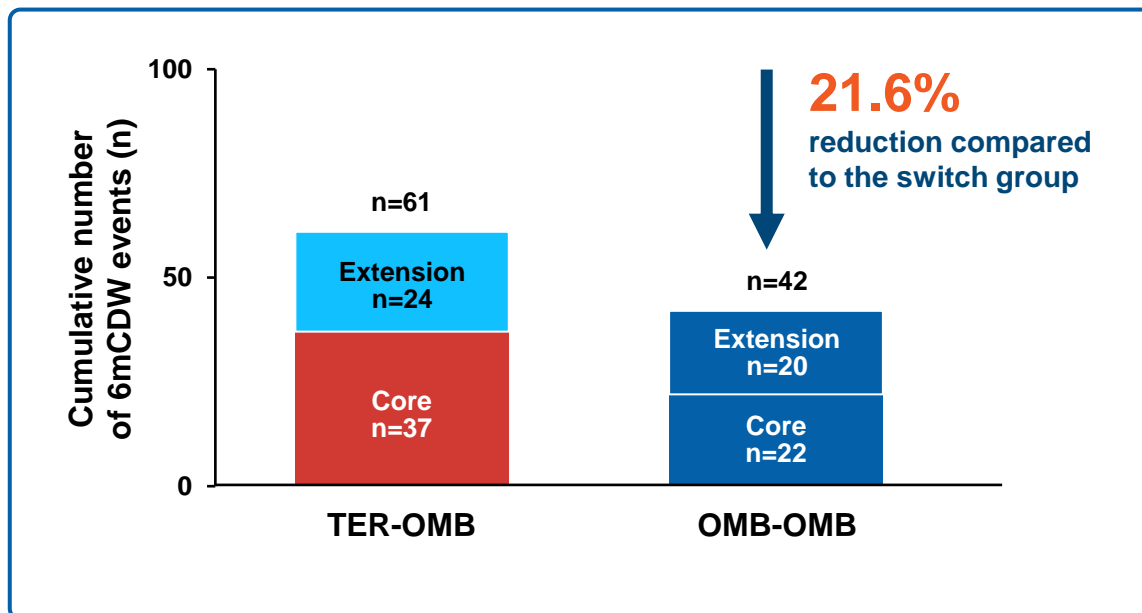
- **First-line continuous ofatumumab treatment** was associated with **significantly fewer 3mCDW events**
 - **3mPIRA^a events** occurred in **14.3% vs 20.3%** of RDTN participants in the OMB-OMB and TER-OMB groups, respectively
- The significant **efficacy benefit of first-line ofatumumab** on 3mCDW in the core phase **cannot be recovered in those initially randomized to teriflunomide** and later switched to ofatumumab

^a3mPIRA is defined as a 3-month confirmed disability worsening (CDW) event with either no prior relapse or an onset more than 90 days after the start date of the last investigator-reported relapse (irrespective of the EDSS confirmation). In addition, to qualify as a PIRA event, no relapse must occur within 30 days after confirmation of EDSS worsening. Cutoff for core and extension periods refer to the first dose of ofatumumab in extension. Δ, Difference in K-M estimates (TER-OMB minus OMB-OMB). HR was determined by Cox regression model; p value represents log-rank test. **3mCDW**, 3-month confirmed disability worsening; **3mPIRA**, 3-month progression independent of relapse activity; **CI**, confidence interval; **EDSS**, Expanded Disability Status Scale; **HR**, hazard ratio; **K-M**, Kaplan-Meier; **OMB**, ofatumumab; **OMB-OMB**, continuous ofatumumab; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤3 years) and treatment-naive; **TER**, teriflunomide; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

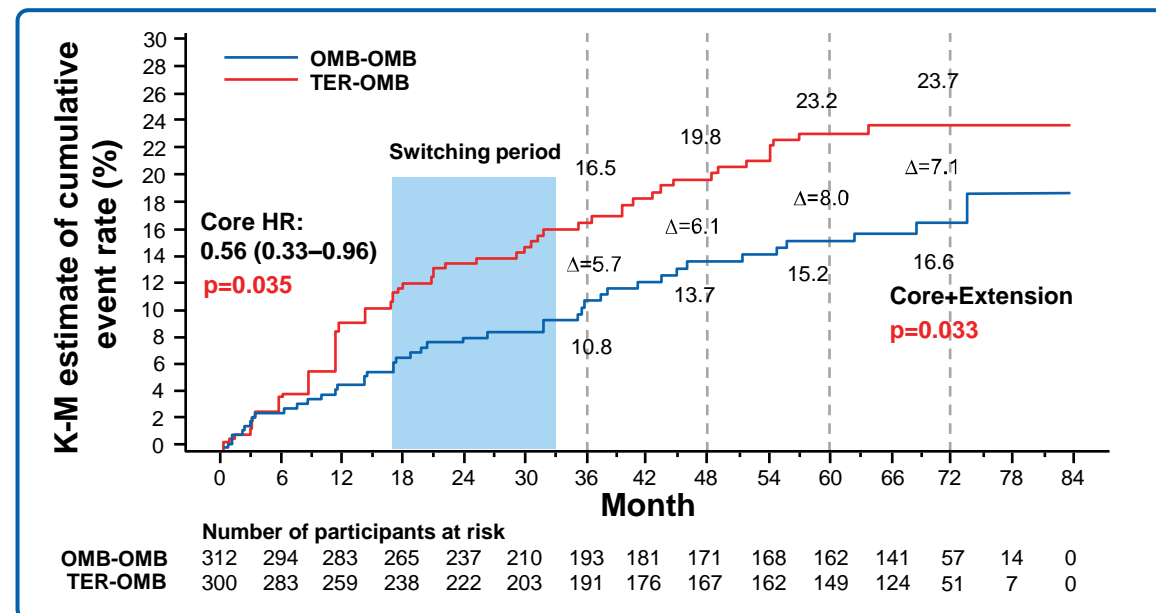
First-line ofatumumab treatment in RDTN participants was associated with a significantly lower number of 6mCDW events up to 6 years



Cumulative number of 6mCDW events up to 6 years



Cumulative event rate – 6mCDW



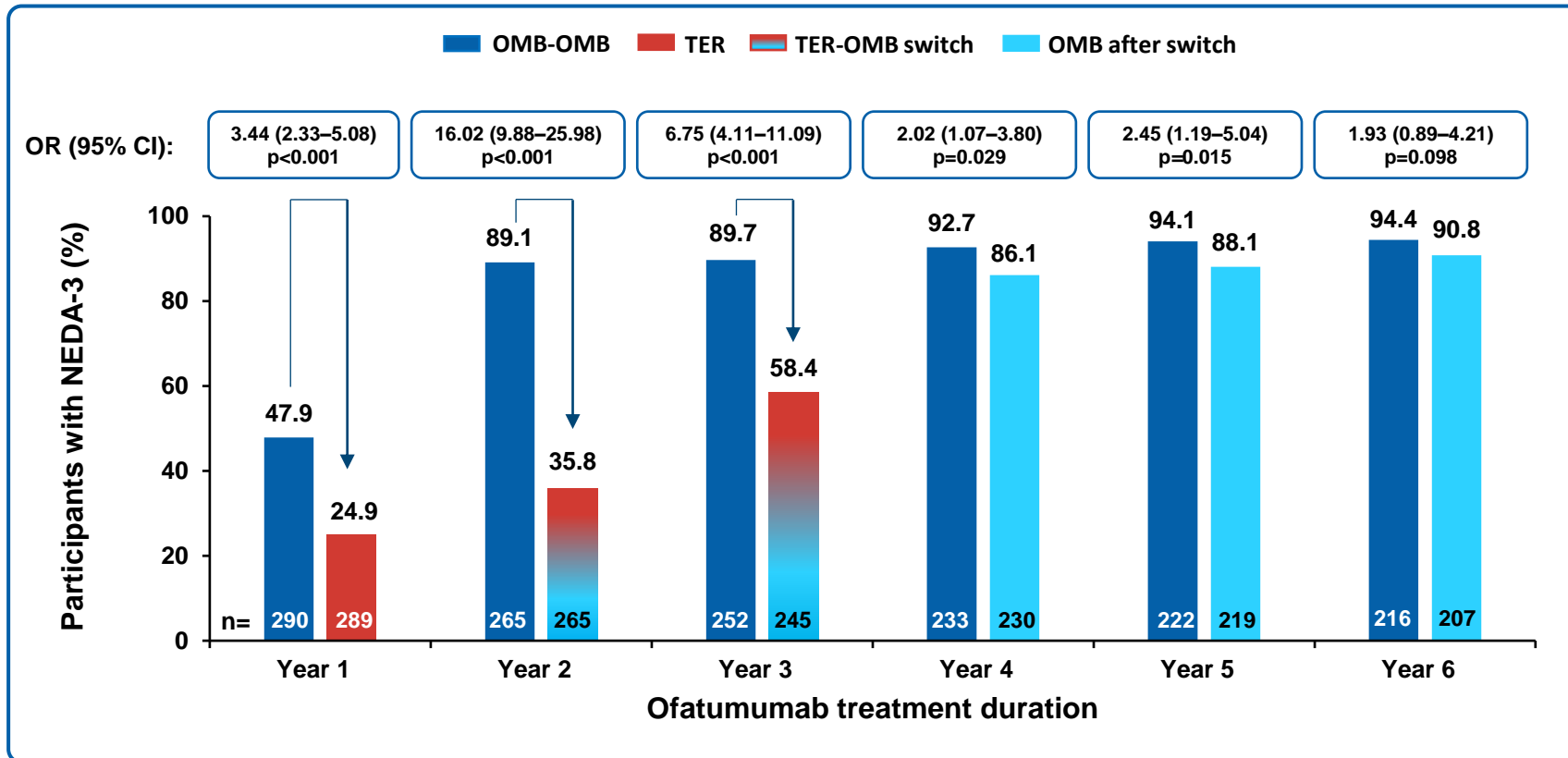
- **First-line continuous ofatumumab treatment** was associated with **significantly fewer 6mCDW events**
 - **6mPIRA^a events** occurred in **11.1% vs 16.8%** of RDTN participants in the OMB-OMB and TER-OMB groups, respectively
- The significant **efficacy benefit of first-line ofatumumab** on 6mCDW in the core phase **cannot be recovered in those initially randomized to teriflunomide** and later switched to ofatumumab

^a6mPIRA is defined as a 6-month confirmed disability worsening (CDW) event with either no prior relapse or an onset more than 90 days after the start date of the last investigator-reported relapse (irrespective of the EDSS confirmation). In addition, to qualify as a PIRA event, no relapse must occur within 30 days after confirmation of EDSS worsening. Cutoff for core and extension periods refer to the first dose of ofatumumab in extension. Δ, Difference in K-M estimates (TER-OMB minus OMB-OMB). HR was determined by Cox regression model; p value represents log-rank test. **6mCDW**, 6-month confirmed disability worsening; **6mPIRA**, 6-month progression independent of relapse activity; **CI**, confidence interval; **EDSS**, Expanded Disability Status Scale; **HR**, hazard ratio; **K-M**, Kaplan-Meier; **OMB**, ofatumumab; **OMB-OMB**, continuous ofatumumab; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤3 years) and treatment-naive; **TER**, teriflunomide; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.

By Year 6 of treatment, 9 of 10 participants were free from disease activity (NEDA-3) in the continuous and switch groups



NEDA-3^a status up to 6 years of ofatumumab treatment (mFAS^b)



- The observed rapid increase in the **proportion of participants with** no evidence of disease activity (**NEDA-3**) with **first-line continuous ofatumumab** was maintained over 6 years
- Participants who were **initially on teriflunomide** had significantly lower NEDA-3 rates, but a **rapid increase in NEDA-3** was observed **after switching to ofatumumab**

^aNEDA-3 is defined as no 6mCDW, no confirmed MS relapse, no neT2 lesions compared to baseline, and no Gd+ T1 lesions.

Statistical model used logistic regression adjusting for treatment and region as factors and age, baseline EDSS, and number of Gd+ at baseline as covariates.

^bmFAS: The modified FAS for NEDA-3 contained all participants in the FAS according to the intent-to-treat principle, but participants who discontinued from study drug prematurely for reasons other than “lack of efficacy” or “death” and had NEDA-3 before early discontinuations were excluded.

6mCDW, 6-month confirmed disability worsening; **CI**, confidence interval; **EDSS**, Expanded Disability Status Scale; **FAS**, full analysis set; **Gd+**, gadolinium-enhancing; **mFAS**, modified full analysis set; **NEDA**, no evidence of disease activity; **n**, the total number of participants in the treatment group with response variable defined; **OMB-OMB**: continuous ofatumumab; **OR**, odds ratio; **RDTN**, recently diagnosed (≤3 years) and treatment-naïve; **TER-OMB**, switch from teriflunomide to ofatumumab.



In **recently diagnosed and treatment-naive** people with RMS:

- **First-line ofatumumab treatment** for **up to 6 years** showed **sustained efficacy** with an adjusted rate of **1 relapse for every 20 years** during the extension phase and **profound suppression** of **MRI** lesion activity; these results are consistent with those of the overall study population¹
- Participants who **switched from teriflunomide to ofatumumab** in the extension phase showed **pronounced reductions in relapses and MRI lesion activity after the switch**
- By Year 6 of treatment, **9 of 10 participants** were free from disease activity (**NEDA-3**) in the continuous and switch groups
 - **High rates of NEDA-3** were achieved within 2 years with **first-line ofatumumab**, whereas rates of NEDA-3 **increased rapidly after switching** from teriflunomide to ofatumumab
- **First-line ofatumumab** was also associated with **significantly fewer CDW events** and **lower rates of PIRA up to 6 years** compared with participants who switched from teriflunomide to ofatumumab
 - The efficacy **benefit of first-line ofatumumab in delaying disability worsening cannot be recovered in those switching** from teriflunomide to ofatumumab

These long-term efficacy results up to 6 years, combined with the favorable benefit–risk profile demonstrated in the overall study population,¹ support the use of ofatumumab as first-line therapy for RDTN people with RMS

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