Background

- Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a debilitating, neurological disease that typically affects people during their prime working years. The economic burden of MS in Spain is substantial, with estimates suggesting an annual cost burden of €167,327 per patient in 2016.
- Ofatumumab (Kesimpta™) is a fully human anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody approved in March 2021 in Europe for the treatment of adults with relapsing multiple sclerosis (RMS). The efficacy and safety of ofatumumab vs teriflunomide has been demonstrated in two pivotal clinical trials (ASCLEPIOS I and II). However, the long-term cost and productivity outcomes of ofatumumab compared to teriflunomide in patients with RMS remains unexplored.

Objective

- To assess the economic and clinical/societal consequences of delaying high efficacy treatment (HET) with ofatumumab in RMS patients compared with early ofatumumab initiation through cost consequence analysis from a Spanish societal perspective.

Methods

Study population

- The patient population considered in this model was aligned to the population included in the ASCLEPIOS I & II trials. The mean age of the cohort was 38.2 years (standard error: 0.005), 32.4% were female, and had a baseline expanded disability status scale (EDSS) scores between 0-5.5. The interventions considered were ofatumumab 20 mg administered subcutaneously once every month and teriflunomide 14 mg administered orally once daily.

Model structure and inputs

- A discrete time Markov model based on EDSS health states (EDSS 0–neurologically normal; EDSS 10–death) was developed in Microsoft Excel® to simulate the natural history of disease progression in RMS patients.
- During each cycle of the model, patients could remain in the same EDSS state or move to a higher/fewer EDSS state or die, as well as experience a relapse (Figure 1).
- The analysis was conducted using a hypothetical cohort of RMS patients with cycle length of 1-year and time horizon of 10 years.

Model assumptions

- Treatment effects were applied in the model in the form of delaying disability progression and reducing the number of relapses.
- Patients were assumed to discontinue treatment and move to best supportive care either when they reach EDSS 7 or 10 or at all cause discontinuation in line with ASCLEPIOS trials.

Model outcomes

- Clinical outcomes included the distribution of patients in the different EDSS states, the time spent in different health states, the proportion of wheelchair patients (EDSS ≥7), number of relapses, and productivity measures (€1 employed and % early retired). Additionally, the number of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) was calculated as the sum of the years of life lost (YLL) due to mortality and years lived with disability (YLD).
- Economic outcomes included direct and indirect costs. Direct costs comprised healthcare costs (disease management, drug administration and monitoring, adverse event management, relapse and non-medical), and excluded DMT acquisition costs. Relapse costs were associated with the management of relapse events. Indirect costs were associated with MS-related productivity loss (% employed and % early retired) and caregiver costs. All costs are expressed in 2020 Euros.

Results

- At the end of 10 years, the proportion of patients in the mild disability state (EDSS 0–3) were projected to be higher in the ofatumumab cohort compared to teriflunomide cohort (57% vs 44%). Moreover, patients in ofatumumab cohort stayed longer in mild disability state as compared those in the teriflunomide cohort (Figure 2).
- Overall, in the ofatumumab cohort, 36.5% loss patients in the mild disability state would progress to EDSS ≥7 (Figure 3) and experience 27.3% less relapses (3.8 vs 5.5) compared with the teriflunomide cohort.
- At the end of 10 years, the proportion of patients employed was higher (60.3% vs 55.2%) and the percentage of patients who retired early was relatively lower (13.0% vs 15.4%) in the ofatumumab cohort compared with the teriflunomide cohort. Additionally, patients in the ofatumumab cohort would require 7.3% less informal care time (1,542 vs 1,664 days) and experience 19% reduction in DALYs (2.03 vs 2.51) compared with the teriflunomide cohort (Figure 4).
- A 3-year delay in the initiation of ofatumumab treatment was estimated to result in 32.2% more patients progressing to EDSS ≥7 (Figure 3), 20.2% more relapses (4.6 vs 3.8), 5.4% increased informal care time (1,664 days vs 1,542 days), and 16.6% more DALYs compared with early initiation of ofatumumab (Figure 4). Furthermore, productivity was lower (i.e., 6% less employed; 9.1% retired early) in patients with delayed vs early initiation of ofatumumab.

Conclusions

- All patients, patients receiving ofatumumab are projected to experience comparatively better outcomes (clinical and economic) than those receiving teriflunomide (€167,327 vs €129,004 per patient).
- Furthermore, a strategy of early use of a HET such as ofatumumab versus its delayed use, has the potential to further improve the outcomes compared to escalation strategy in RMS patients having characteristics similar to those in ASCLEPIOS trials.

References


Disclosures

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