(S127) AFRICAN AMERICAN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS IMPACT SCALE–29 SCORES IMPROVE AFTER 6 NATALIZUMAB INFUSIONS

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Background: Data from pivotal clinical trials have shown that the efficacy of natalizumab on relapses and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) lesions in patients of African descent is similar to its efficacy in the overall study populations. However, the effect of natalizumab on quality of life (QOL) in African American (AA) patients is unknown. The Multiple Sclerosis Impact Scale–29 (MSIS-29) is a reliable and valid disease-specific scale that assesses the impact of multiple sclerosis (MS) on the psychological and physical aspects of QOL from a patient’s perspective. Objectives: To assess change in disease-specific QOL in AA MS patients in an exploratory analysis.

Methods: In the United States, MS patients starting natalizumab were recruited to participate in a longitudinal observational study and completed the MSIS-29 before natalizumab initiation and after the 3rd, 6th, and 12th infusions. The MSIS-29 consists of 20 items evaluating the physical impact and 9 items evaluating the psychological impact of MS. Scores range from 0 to 100, with lower scores indicating better QOL. Repeated-measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to measure the changes in MSIS-29 scores from baseline (BL) through the sixth infusion.

Results: Data from 45 AA patients who received six natalizumab infusions in this ongoing study indicated that the mean (SD) age of the cohort was 40.6 (10.7) years and the majority of patients were female (86%). The mean number of years since MS diagnosis was 8.2 (6.2). Patients showed statistically significant improvements in their physical (BL, 46.1 ± 22; 6th, 37.7 ± 22; P = .005) and psychological impact scores (BL, 36.9 ± 23; 6th, 30.1 ± 21; P = .019) over time.

Conclusions: AA patients using natalizumab show physical and psychological improvements in disease-specific QOL that are similar to improvements observed in the overall MS population receiving natalizumab. Since patients of African descent may have more severe forms of MS and may be less responsive to interferon treatment, natalizumab may be an effective treatment option in this patient population.

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