(S61) MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS IMPACT SCALE–29 SCORE IMPROVEMENTS AFTER ONE YEAR OF NATALIZUMAB TREATMENT
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Background: Multiple sclerosis (MS) has significant social, psychological, and physical effects that can adversely affect patients’ quality of life (QOL). The Multiple Sclerosis Impact Scale–29 (MSIS-29) is a reliable and valid disease-specific QOL scale that assesses the impact of MS on QOL from a patient’s perspective. Objectives: To assess changes in the physical and psychological impact of MS over time in MS patients receiving treatment with natalizumab. 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 scale 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. Statistical regression models were used to evaluate changes in MSIS-29 scores over time after controlling for age, years since MS diagnosis, number of natalizumab infusions received, baseline (BL) disability and functional status, number of MS drugs used prior to natalizumab, and comorbidity burden. Results: Data from 192 patients who received 12 infusions and completed all assessments in this ongoing study indicated that the mean ± SD age was 46.09 ± 10.78 years, 78% were female, and they had been diagnosed with MS an average of 10.16 ± 8.23 years previously. After controlling for covariates, a statistically significant improvement was observed in physical impact scores (BL, 48.78 ± 17.06; 12th, 41.66 ± 15.22; P < .0001); similarly, psychological impact scores showed statistically significant improvements over time (BL, 42.52 ± 5.68; 12th, 33.10 ± 5.68; P < .0001) over time. Conclusions: MS adversely affects patients’ quality of life. Patients receiving natalizumab for 1 year reported physical and psychological improvements in MS-specific QOL and thereby in everyday functioning. This effect was seen as early as after three infusions and has been sustained over time.

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