

# COST-SAVING IMPACT AND SAFETY EVALUATION OF BIOSIMILAR NATALIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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## Background and importance

The use of biosimilar drugs enhances access to biological therapies for more patients, but there is a lack of real-world safety data. Recently, biosimilar natalizumab (BN) has been approved for the treatment of relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis in our country.

## Aim and objectives

To evaluate the safety of BN in real clinical practice and the cost saving impact after its inclusion in the hospital guide formulary.

## Material and methods



Retrospective, observational study including all patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis treated with BN between



April and September 2024



Variables sex, age, new treatment/switching, cycles received of BN, days on BN, baseline anti-JC antibodies, treatment-related adverse effects (Aes), treatment discontinuation and reasons for discontinuation



for the cost-saving impact calculation, we considered the doses of BN administered during the study period. We also estimated the cost saved per patient during a year of treatment with BN.

## Results

- **34 patients** were included (mean age  $39\pm 8.9$  years [27-63], 26 women [76.47%]).
- Thirty-three patients (97.1%) switched to the biosimilar, while 1 patient (2.9%) initiated treatment.
- The **mean duration of treatment with the biosimilar was  $157\pm 15.8$  days**. The mean number of cycles received of BN was  $4.7\pm 1.52$ . Eight patients had baseline anti-JC antibodies (23.5%).
- AEs related to BN included **herpes infection** (1; 2.9%), although it had been presented previously. Treatment was discontinued in 4 patients due to reasons unrelated to AEs: pregnancy (1; 2.9%), melanoma diagnosis (1; 2.9%), and risk of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (2; 5.88%)
- The **cost savings** from switching to the biosimilar amounted to **€27,128.5**, resulting in an estimated **annual cost saving of €1,927.5 per patient**.

## Conclusion and relevance

In our study, BN exhibits an adequate **safety profile**, resulting in significant **economic savings** that contribute to the sustainability of the National Health System. Safety and effectiveness studies in the long-term are warranted.



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