EXPERIENCE WITH NATALIZUMAB IN THE TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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Background and Importance

One of the main limitations of treating multiple sclerosis (MS) with natalizumab is the risk of developing progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML).

Aim and objectives

To assess the effectiveness and safety of natalizumab in the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS.

Materials and Methods

- Retrospective study (2007-2024)
- MS patients treated with natalizumab.
- Disease progression was evaluated using the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) and radiological activity through MRI, identifying new T2 lesions or gadolinium-enhancing (Gd+) lesions.

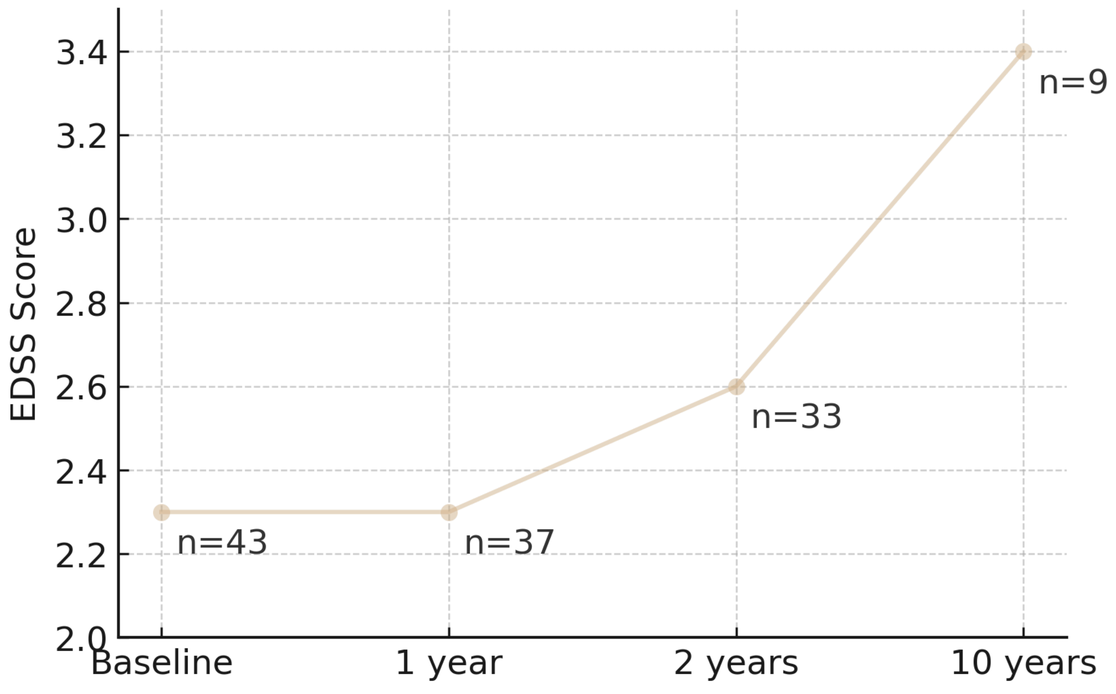
Results

43 patients

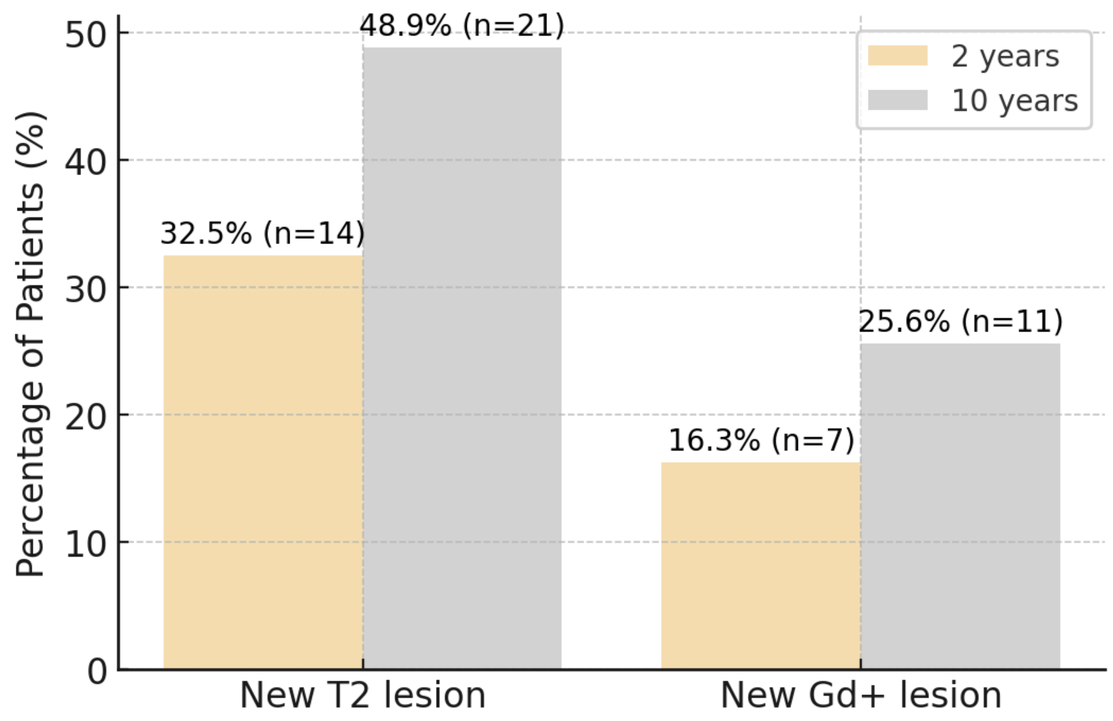
Mean age 41.9 years [24-62]

♀ 74.4% ♂ 25.6%

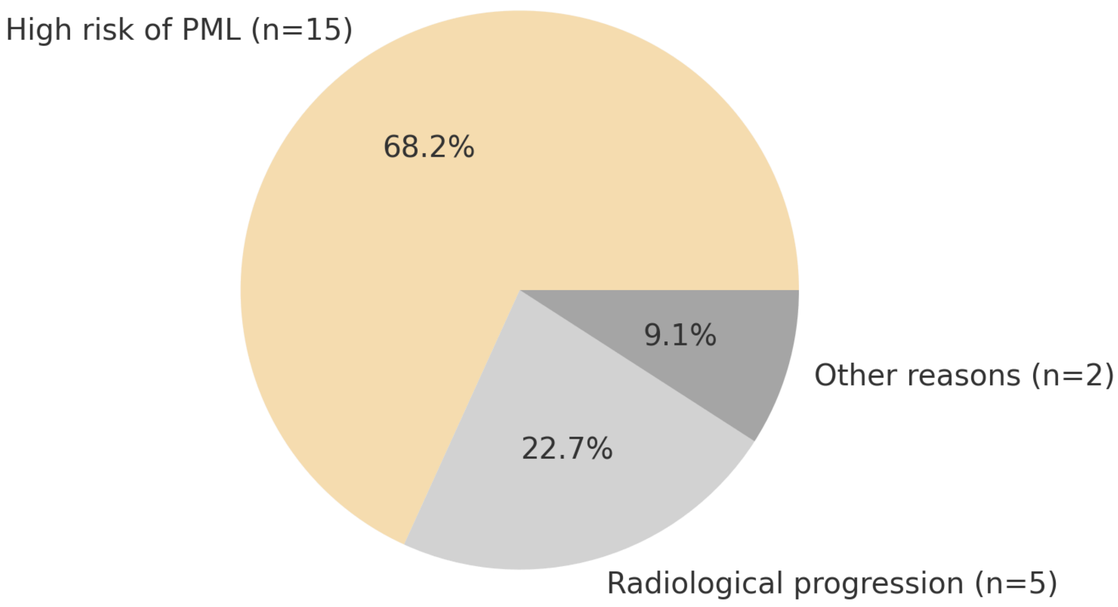
The evolution of the mean EDSS score over time is presented below, from baseline to 10 years, with the number of patients indicated at each time point:



The proportion of patients with at least one new T2 or Gd+ lesion at 2 and 10 years is illustrated in the following figure:



The mean treatment duration was 65.6 months [2-173]. The reasons for treatment discontinuation (n=22) were as follows:



Regarding safety, 44.2% of patients (n=19) experienced treatment-related adverse events, mainly infections (36.8%, n=7). No cases of PML were reported.

Conclusion and Relevance

Natalizumab remains a viable option for the treatment of relapsing-remitting MS, demonstrating both short and long-term effectiveness, high persistence, and a favorable safety profile.

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