

POSITIVE IMPACT OF EXTENDING NATALIZUMAB DOSAGE INTERVAL FROM EVERY 4 WEEKS TO EVERY 6 WEEKS IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

NTZ is a monoclonal antibody which targets a protein called $\alpha 4\beta 1$ integrin on white blood cells involved in inflammation that has demonstrated remarkable efficacy in reducing relapse rates and disability progression in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)

The main risk of treatment with NTZ is the possibility of developing progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, which is related to JC virus positivity and the number of NTZ infusions.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES



To explore the impact of extending the dosing interval of NTZ from every four weeks to every six weeks in RRMS patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A retrospective observational study was carried out in a general hospital from January 2023 to September 2023

RRMS patients who had been receiving Natalizumab every four weeks for at least one year and subsequently switched to a six-week dosing interval were included.

Clinical data were collected and analyzed including relapse rates, disability progression, and adverse events.

RESULTS

- 11 RRMS patients were included.
 - None of them had new focal neurological symptoms, as evidenced by stable MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) findings and absence of clinical.
 - No cases of PML or other serious adverse events were reported during the study period.
 - One patient reported visual worsening in the left eye but this was attributed to other factors unrelated to the dosing interval change.

DISCUSSION

1. Extending NTZ dosage interval appears to be a viable therapeutic strategy .
2. The absence of PML cases is particularly encouraging, suggesting that the risk of PML may not be significantly increased with this extended dosing regimen .
3. More studies are needed to confirm these findings.

CONCLUSION

In this study, the extension of Natalizumab dosing intervals in RRMS patients demonstrated promising results, including stable disease activity and an absence of PML cases.

