

POSTER PRESENTATION

Real-world experience on the use of COVID-19 vaccination in patients with multiple sclerosis treated with Cladribine tablets in the Gulf region

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INTRODUCTION

- The Gulf nations were among the first in the world to implement the COVID-19 vaccination.
- According to regional guidelines like MENACTRIMS, multiple sclerosis (MS) patients should be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The vaccines being offered in the region include Sinopharm, Pfizer-BioNTech, Sputnik V, and Oxford-AstraZeneca.
- To understand the real-world experience with COVID-19 vaccination in MS patients taking cladribine tablets, a questionnaire based survey was conducted in patients enrolled in Adveva™.
- Adveva™ Gulf is a Merck-sponsored health care provider (HCP)-driven patient support program (PSP).
- It is a personalized support program for patients living with MS and those treated with cladribine tablets.

OBJECTIVES

To describe the real-world experience on the use of COVID-19 vaccination in MS patients treated with cladribine tablets participating in the PSP.

METHODS

MS patients treated with cladribine tablets participating in Adveva™ Gulf were asked to participate in a questionnaire based survey about their COVID-19 vaccination status.

The survey was optional, the interview was initiated by health educators over the phone, and they submitted the answers on the patient's behalf.

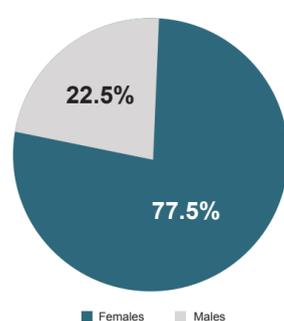
The patient's verbal consent was required to start the questionnaire.

The survey was run from 1st to 27th September, 2021. Information collected included demographics, treatment dates, vaccination, and COVID-19 information.

RESULTS

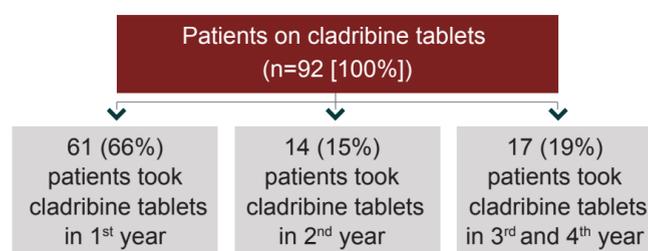
- Of the 106 MS patients, 92 (86%) patients provided consent to participate and completed the questionnaire.

Figure 1: Patient demographics



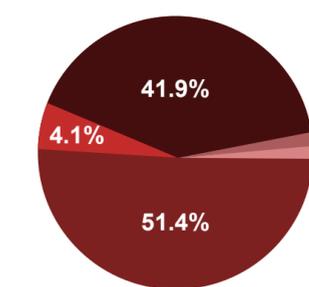
- Majority of the participants were females.

Figure 2: Patients on cladribine tablets



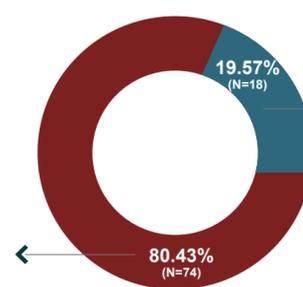
- All patients had been on cladribine tablets since 2018-till Sept 2021.
- Majority of the patients (66%) took cladribine tablets in the first year
- The mean time between the last dose of cladribine tablets and the first dose of the vaccine was 129 days.

Figure 4: Types of vaccine taken by patients on cladribine tablets



Legend: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca, SinoPharm, Sputnik, Sinovac, Hyatvax, Johnson & Johnson [J&J]

Figure 3: Vaccination status in patients on cladribine tablets



Legend: Patients taking cladribine tablets and COVID-19 vaccine, Patients taking cladribine tablets but not the COVID-19 vaccine

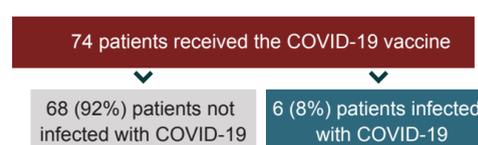
Figure 5: Patients taking cladribine tablets but not COVID-19 vaccine



- 74 out of 92 (80.42%) patients on cladribine tablets also took the COVID-19 vaccine (Fig 3).
- Out of those who were vaccinated, the majority (51.4%) took the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 41.9% of patients took the vaccine by Sinopharm (Fig 4).
- Of the patients who had not received the vaccine, 72.2% were planning to receive the vaccine soon (Fig 5).

- Details on COVID-19 infection post-vaccination are highlighted in Fig 6.

Figure 6: COVID infection status in patients vaccinated against COVID-19



- Mean time to infection from the last dose of vaccine: 79 days
- Confirmed by PCR: 5 out of 6
- All cases recovered and did not require hospitalization

CONCLUSIONS

- The outcomes of this survey suggest that the use cladribine tablets did not hinder the patients from receiving COVID-19 vaccinations.
- A few patients developed SARS-CoV-2 infection despite being vaccinated, but all had mild disease and did not require hospitalization.
- No safety concerns were observed.

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