



**WCN**  
**2015**

**XXII World Congress of Neurology**  
**Santiago - Chile 2015**  
Changing Neurology Worldwide  
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# Case-study based therapeutic update of MS

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# Outline of Update

## Goals

Minimise disability  
Prevent disability  
Reverse disability

## Means

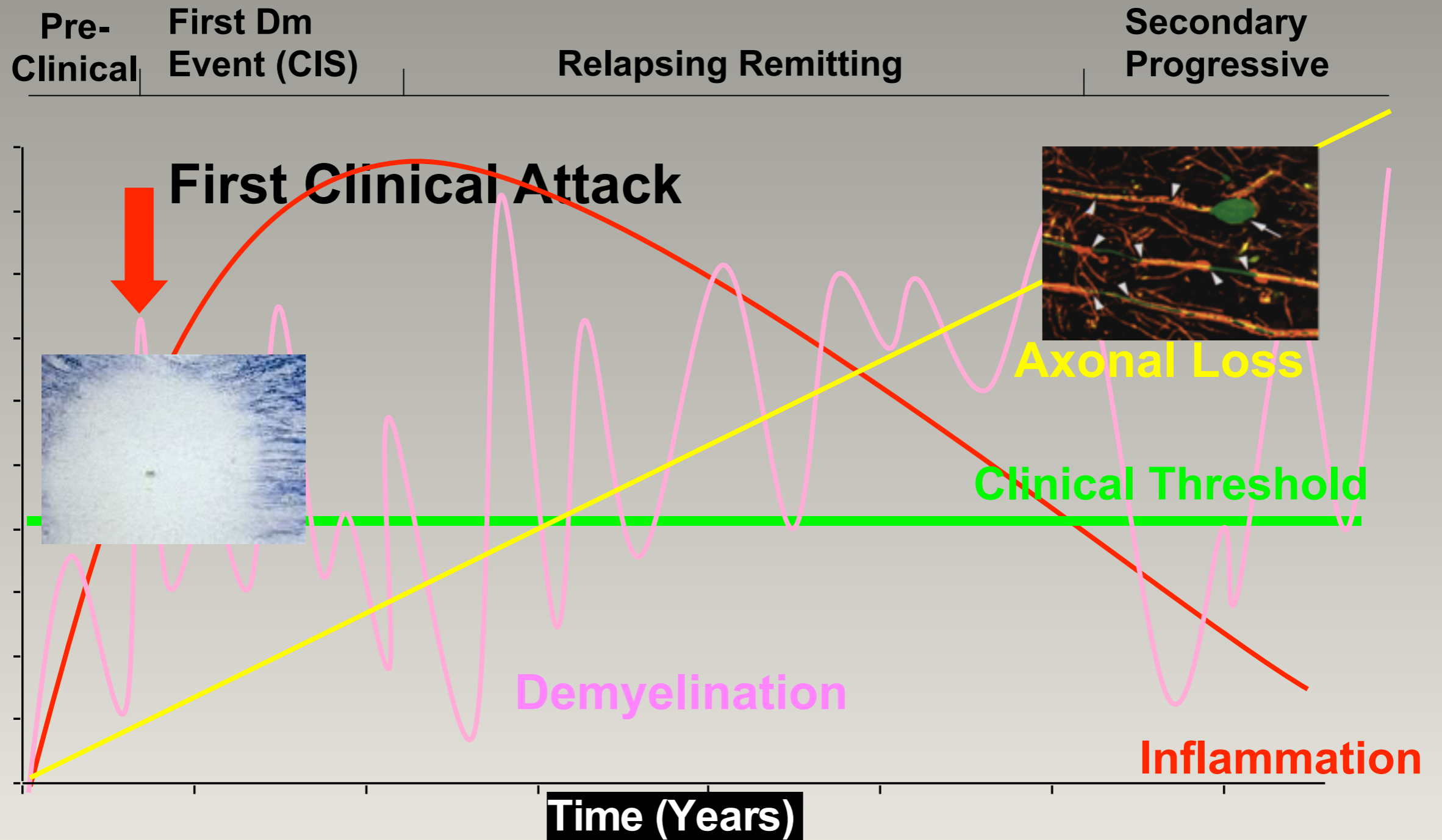
Disease suppression  
Disease elimination

## Measurement

Disease activity  
Treatment endpoint(s) EDSS-plus etc

Redefining evidence based interpretations of disease activity to permit continuing treatment.

# Clinical Course and Pathology



## Goals

Minimise, Prevent or Reverse disability

Treat early with most effective agent  
and most acceptable Risk:Benefit ratio



Disease activity, age of patient, duration of disease, extent and distribution of disability

Usually neurologist selects most effective agent(s)  
and patient decides on most acceptable risk:benefit

# Accessible DMD in Australia



## Monoclonals/ Biologics

- Natalizumab
- Alemtuzumab
- Rituximab
- Ocrelizumab

## Orals

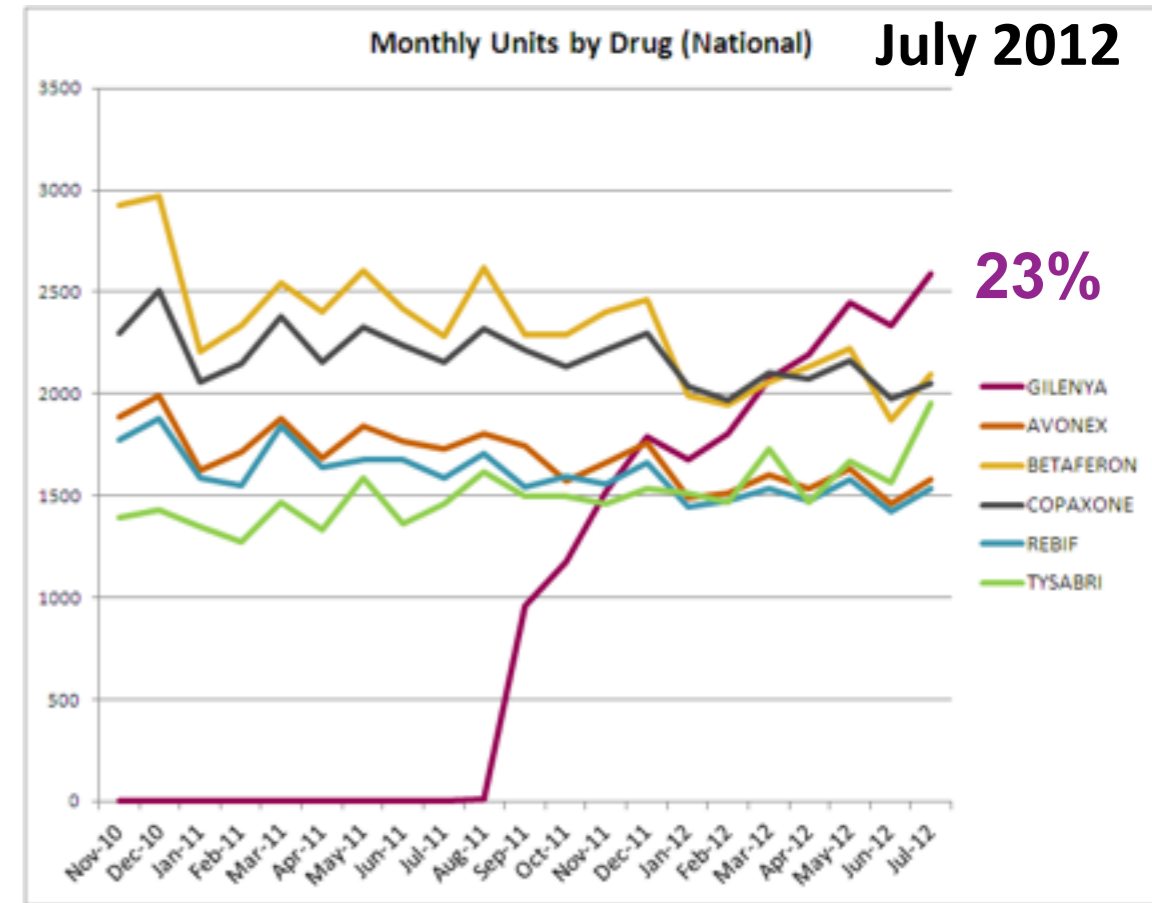
- Fingolimod
- Difumarate
- Teriflunomide

## Injectables

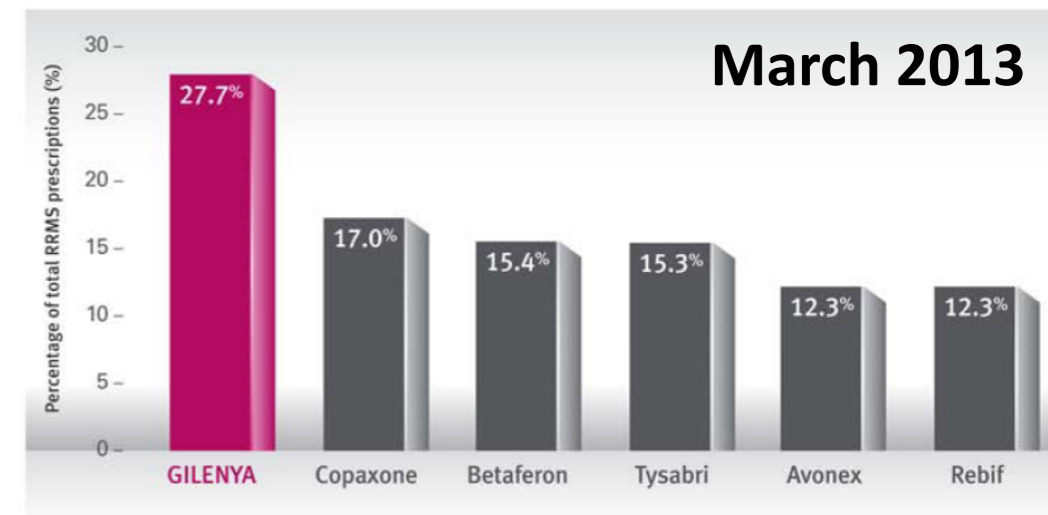
- Interferon B-1b sc
- Interferon B-1a sc
- Interferon B-1a im
- Glatiramer Acetate

## Immunosuppressants

- Mitoxantrone
- Cladribine



Agents prescribed for the treatment of RRMS in Australia Jan - March 2013<sup>1</sup>



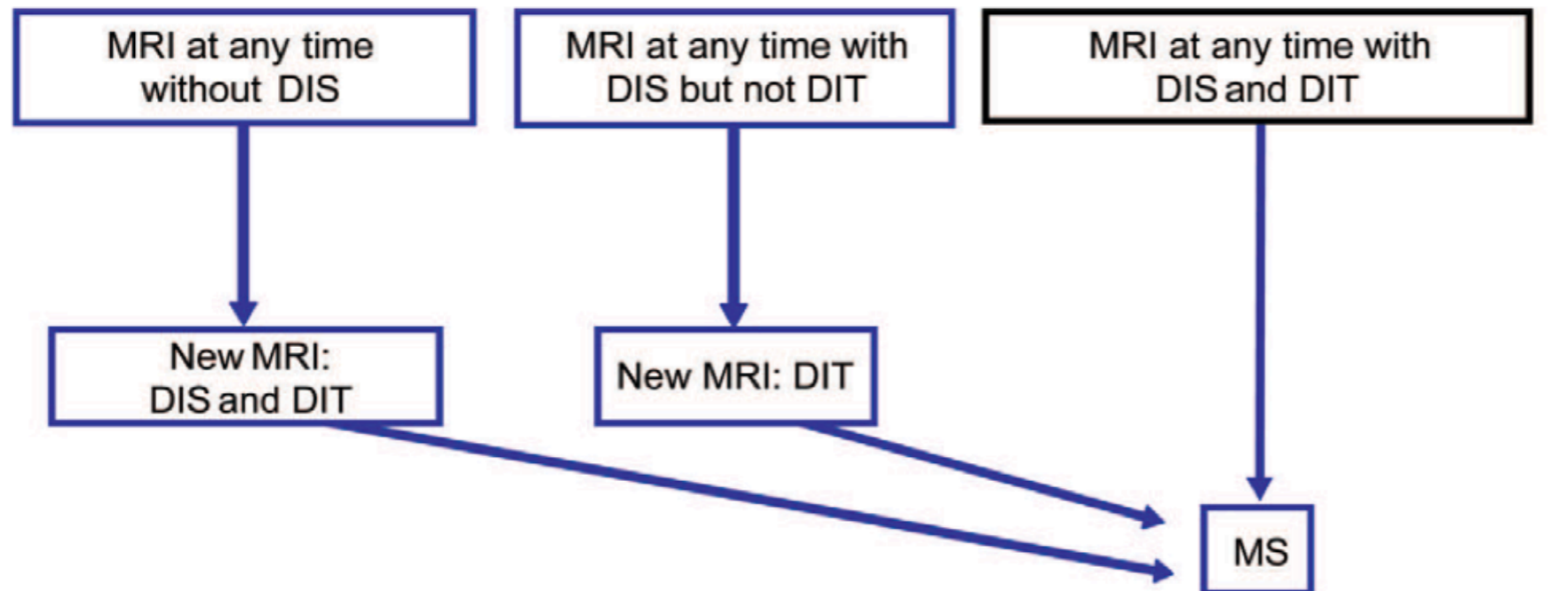
Adapted from IMS National data (retail & hospital), March 2013.

Reference  
1. Novartis data on file.

# MRI criteria for MS in patients with clinically isolated syndromes

Montabaln X et al Neurology 2010;74:427-434

## New proposed diagnostic algorithm in patients with typical clinically isolated syndromes (CIS)



DIS	DIT
≥1 asymptomatic lesion in each of ≥2 characteristic locations: PV, JC, PF, spinal cord	(i) Simultaneous presence of asymptomatic Gd enhancing and non-enhancing lesion(s) at any time (ii) A new T2 and/or Gd-enhancing lesion on follow up MRI irrespective of timing of baseline scan

## 2010 Revisions to the McDonald Criteria.

Polman et al (2011) [Annals of Neurology](#) Volume 69, 292–302

This algorithm only applies to patients with typical CIS, aged 14 to 50 years and after having performed a complete diagnostic workup. Gd = gadolinium-enhancing lesion; PV = periventricular; JC = juxtacortical; PF = posterior fossa; BS = brainstem; SC = spinal cord; DIS = dissemination in space; DIT = dissemination in time.

# Benign\* and Aggressive Disease

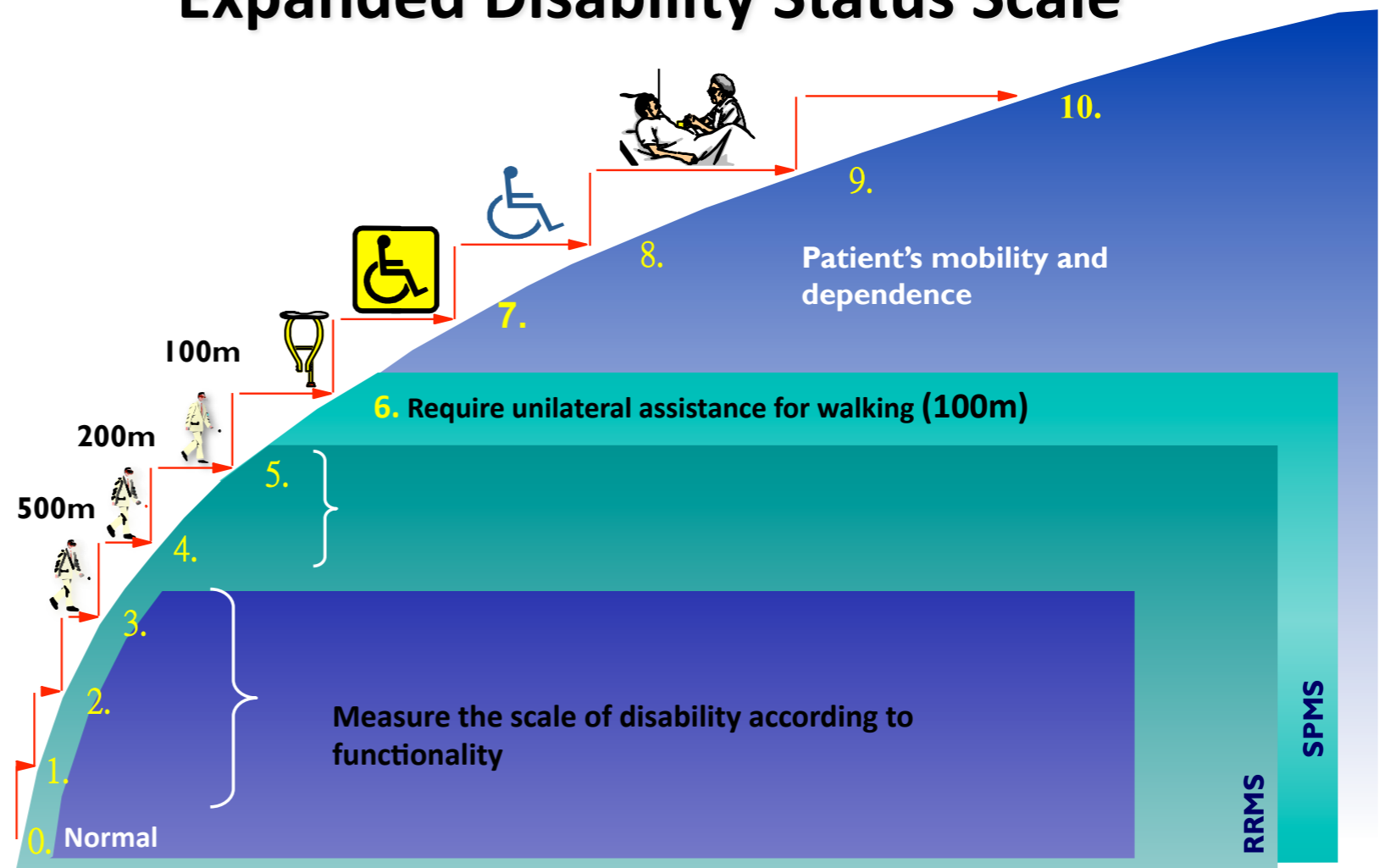
Retrospective (Biomarkers required)

## Expanded Disability Status Scale

(\*Everyone's hope)

### Aggressive Disease

- Rapid accumulation of disability
- $\geq 2$  relapses in the past 12 months and/or
- $\geq 2$  points progressive increase in EDSS in the past 12 months
- Other pointers; failure to recover fully from relapse, T1 black holes



# Evidence favours early treatment

## The human experiments

CIS studies BENEFIT etc

21yr Long Term Follow-up

Alemtuzumab CAMMS 223, CARE-MS I and II, 5 yr EXTENSION

Natalizumab AFFIRM, SENTINEL & STRATA (5 yr extension)

Ocrelizumab OPERAI/II ORATORIO\*

**All demonstrate the same effect.**

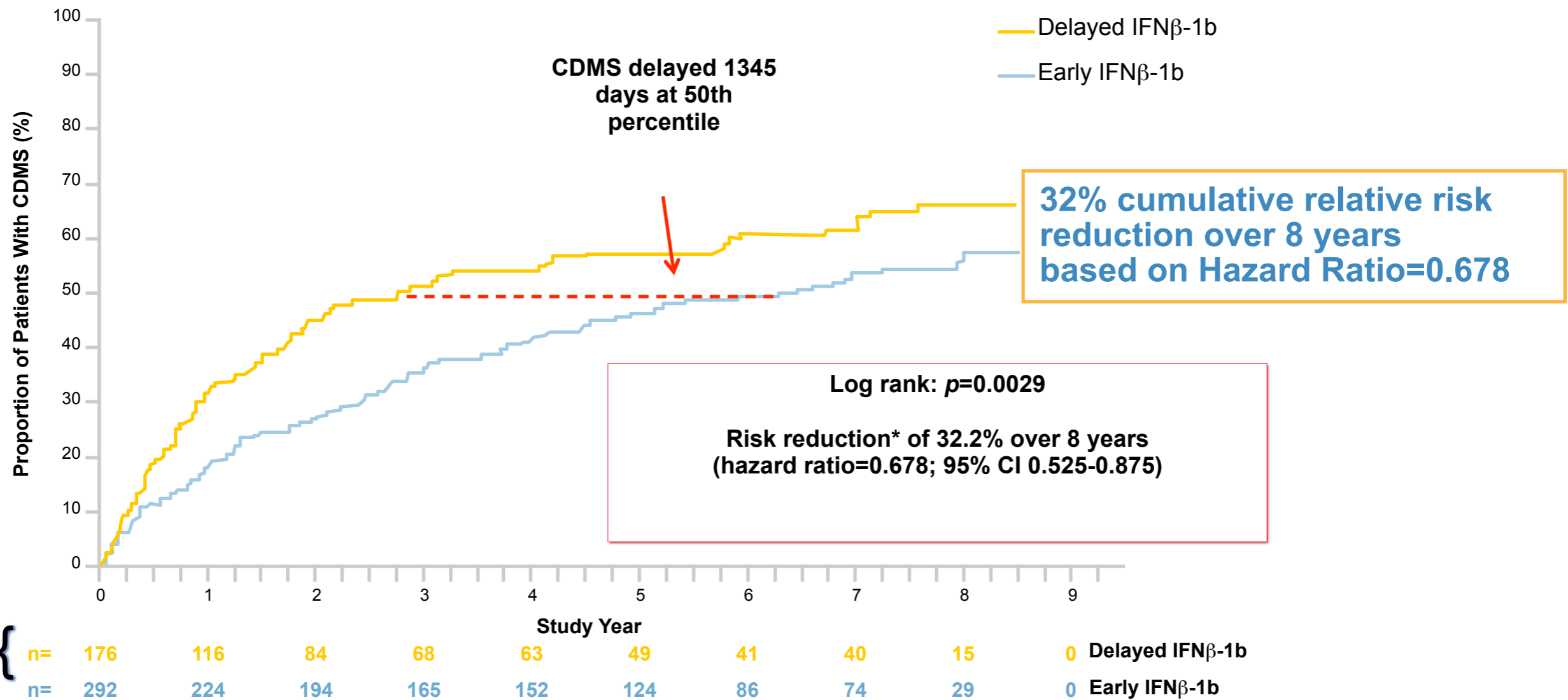
**Earlier treatment equates to potentially better outcome**

\* Primary Progressive MS



# BENEFIT trial

## Early Treatment Reduced the Risk of CDMS Over 8yrs



## BENEFIT trial at 11 yrs: Cognitive Function

Foley FW et al for BENEFIT Study Group. ECTRIMS 2015

All patients asked to complete a Cognitive Assessment including PASAT3 (longitudinal since baseline) and SDMT (cross sectional)

278 of the original 468

223 PASAT3, 211 SDMT & 223 Cognitive fatigue \*

\*standard 90s PASAT time  
divided into 30s intervals

- Early treatment group had higher mean PASAT 3 scores at yr I I and throughout study
- Early 52.9 vs late 52.0  $p=007$  (no time x treatment interaction effects as these emerged early in trial and persisted)
- No cross sectional differences in the SDMT at Yr II. Median score 53 for both early and late groups. Comparable to other RRMS groups.
- No evidence of Cognitive fatigue in either group

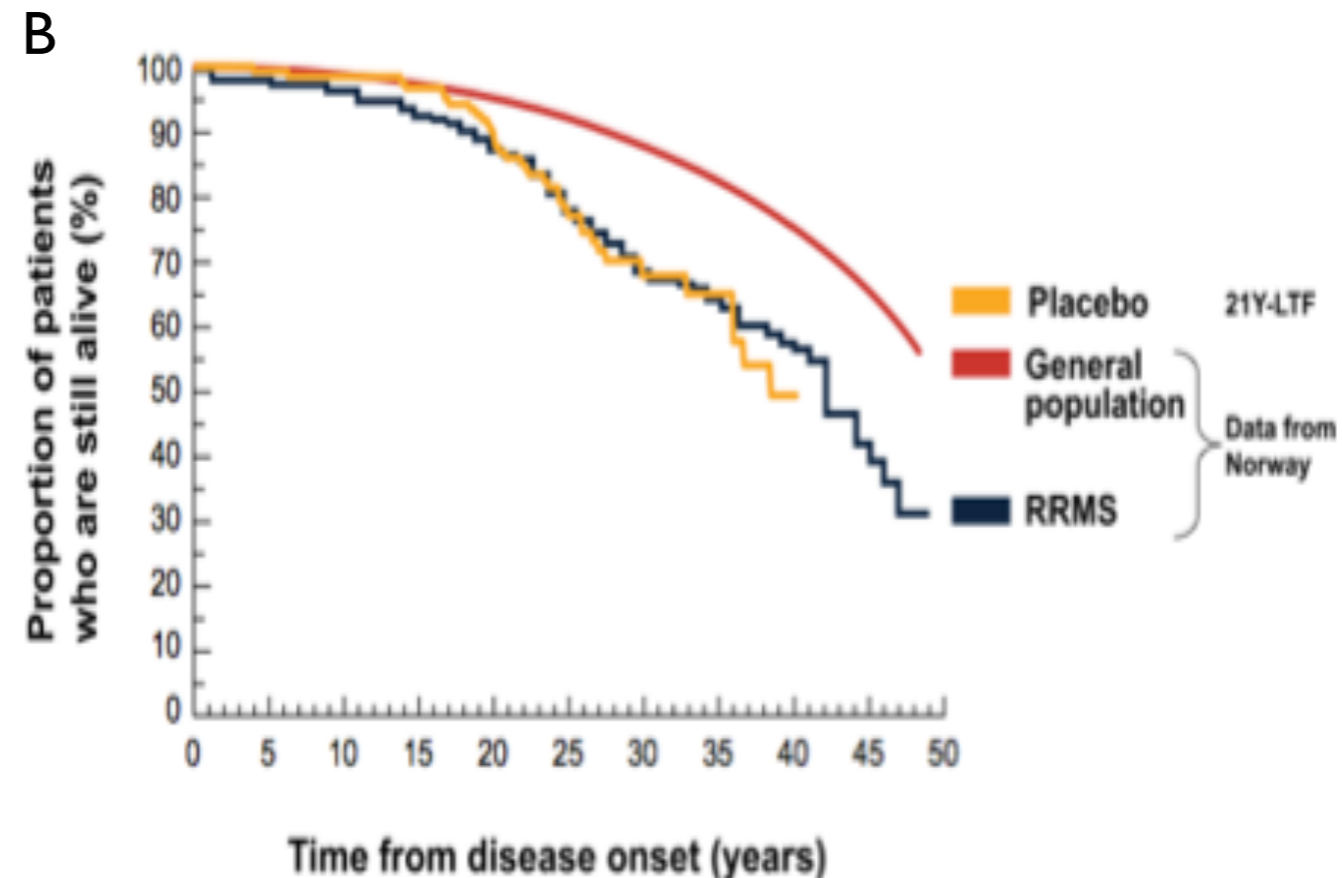
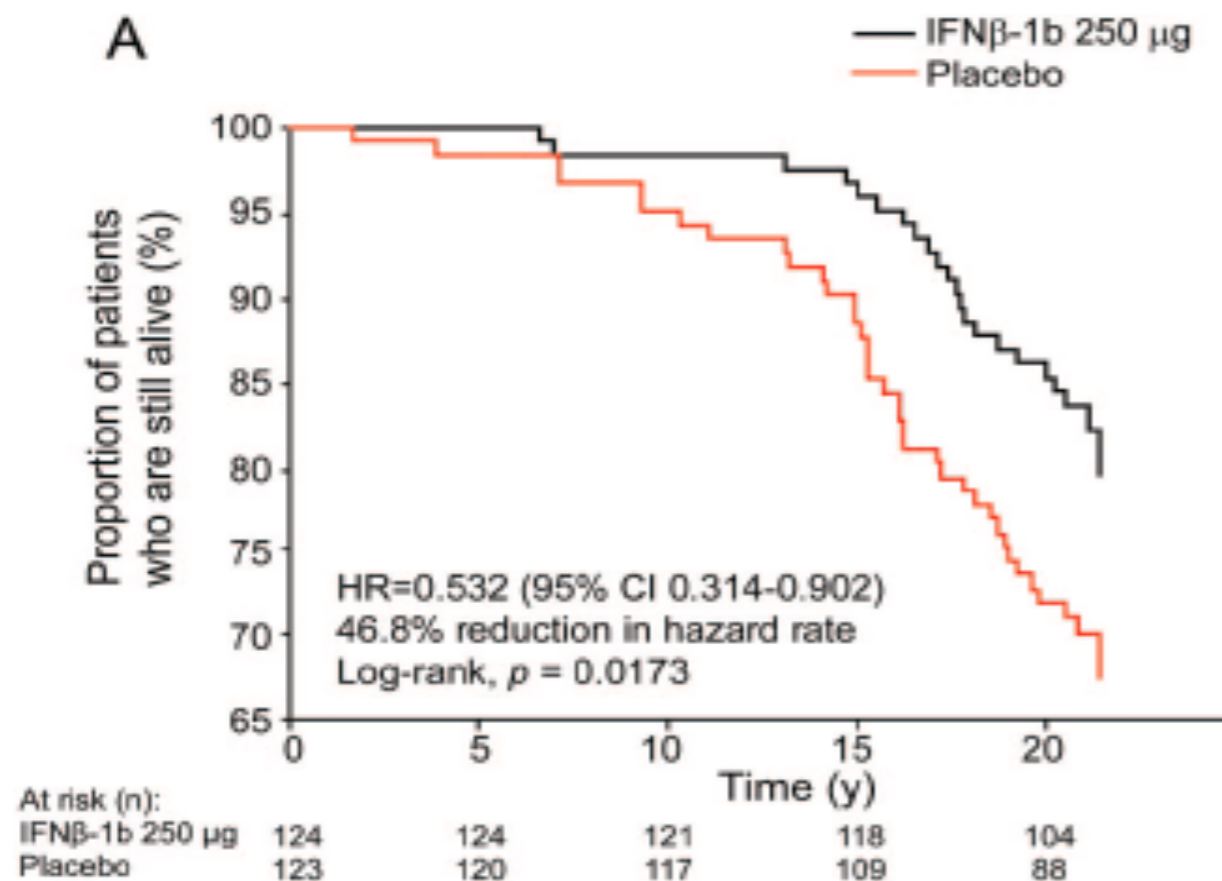
Further confirmation of early treatment benefit of RRMS  
Also matched by ARR and EDSS data

# Survival in MS

A randomized cohort study 21 years after the start of the pivotal IFN $\beta$ -1b trial

Goodin et al., Neurology 2012

- evidence that reducing disease activity using a modestly effective therapy EARLY in the disease affects survival
- 98.4% follow-up for 21 years of the original IFNB-1b RRMS pivotal study
- risk of death from all causes reduced by 47% in the actively treated arms (with 5 years more of active treatment with IFN $\beta$ -1b)



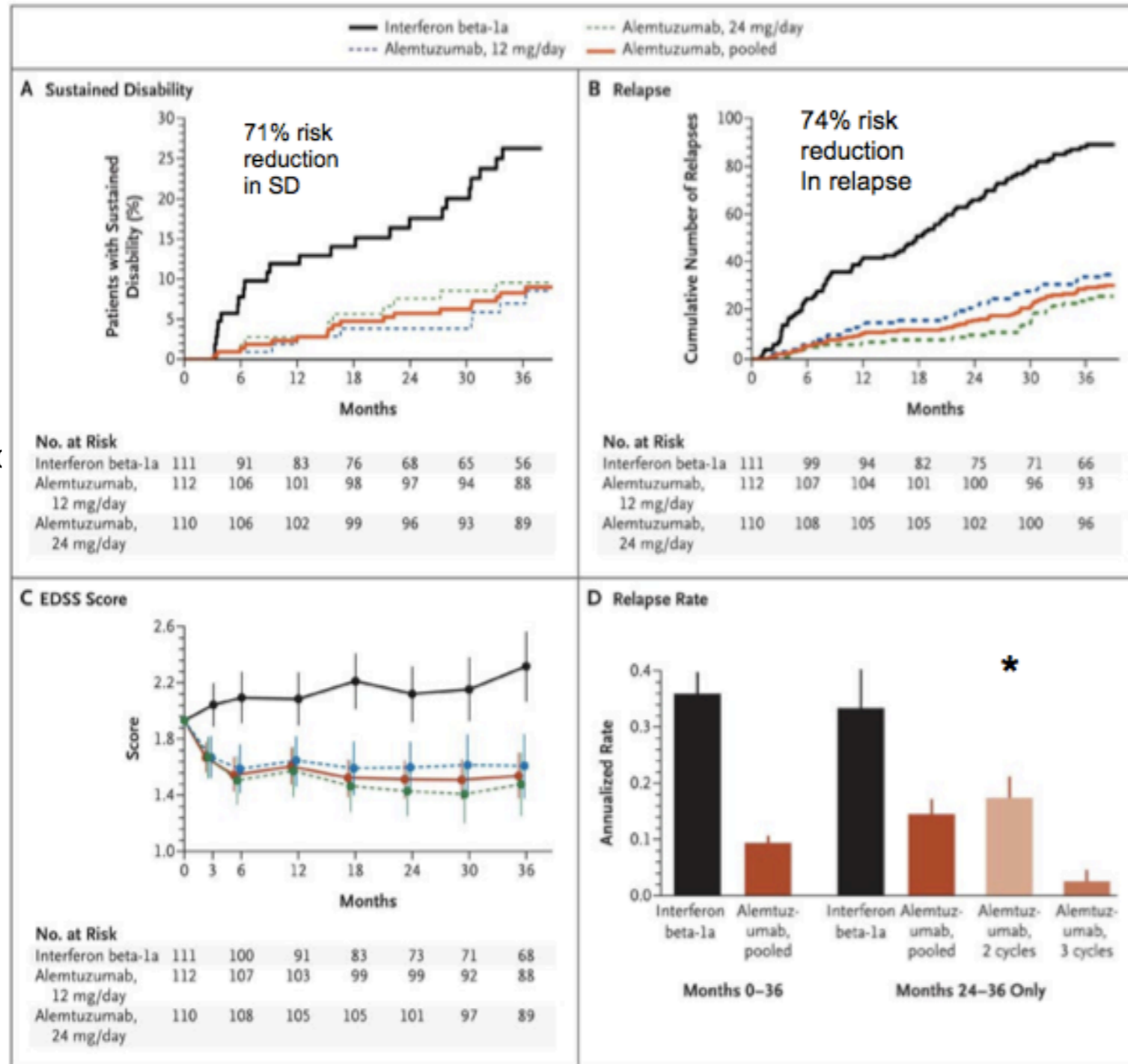


# ALEMTUZUMAB

Anti CD52 mAb (targeting T and B cells; B > T). Daily infusion with HDMP for 5 days once a year

## CAMMS 223

Coles et al. N Engl J Med 2008;359:1786-80

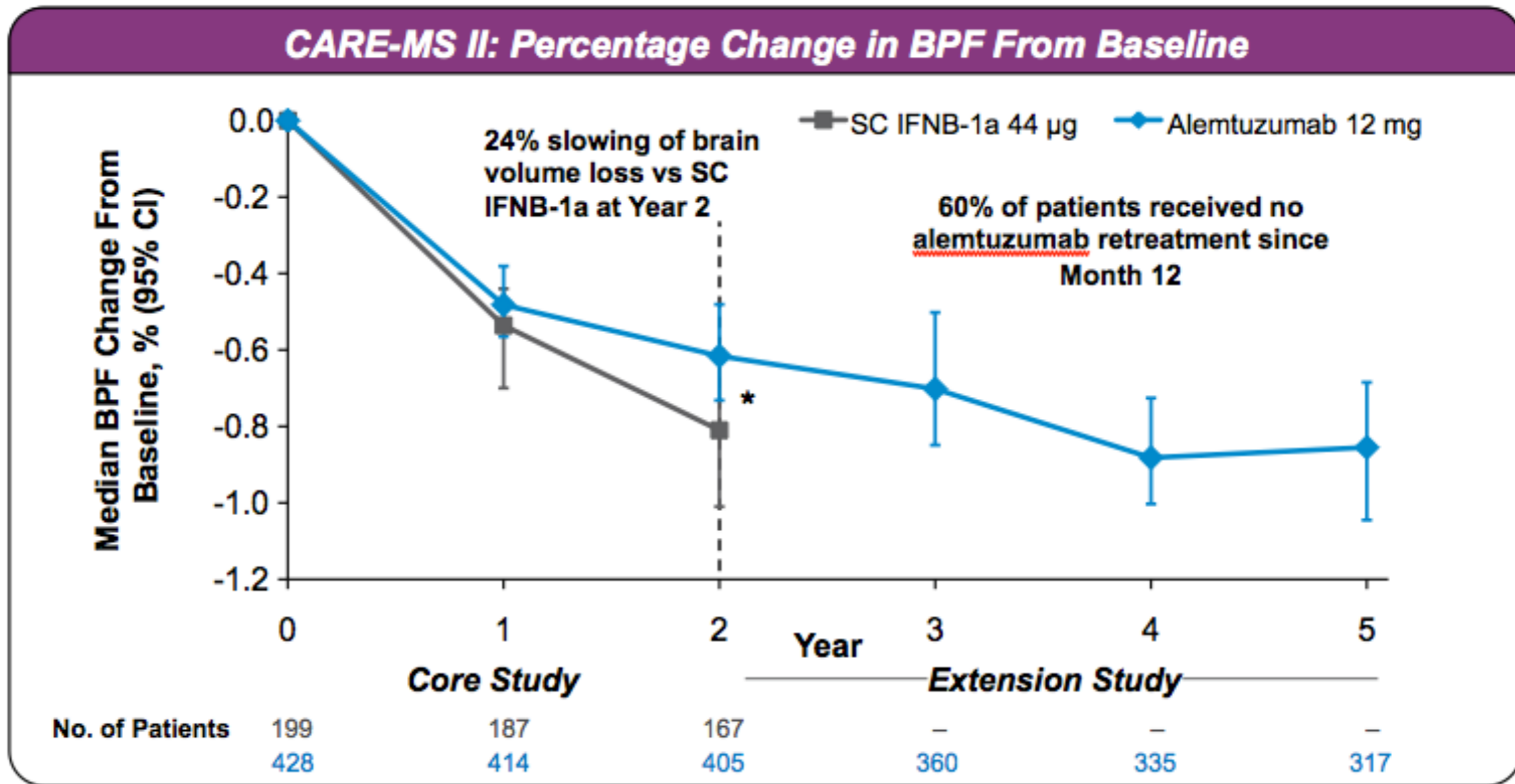


## Alemtuzumab vs IFN B-1a in Early RRMS

Efficacy Outcome Measures (disability & relapse) at 36mo

\*Note: 72% of Alemtuzumab pts did not receive 3rd dose

# Slowing Brain Volume Loss Through 5 Years in CARE-MS II Alemtuzumab-Treated Patients



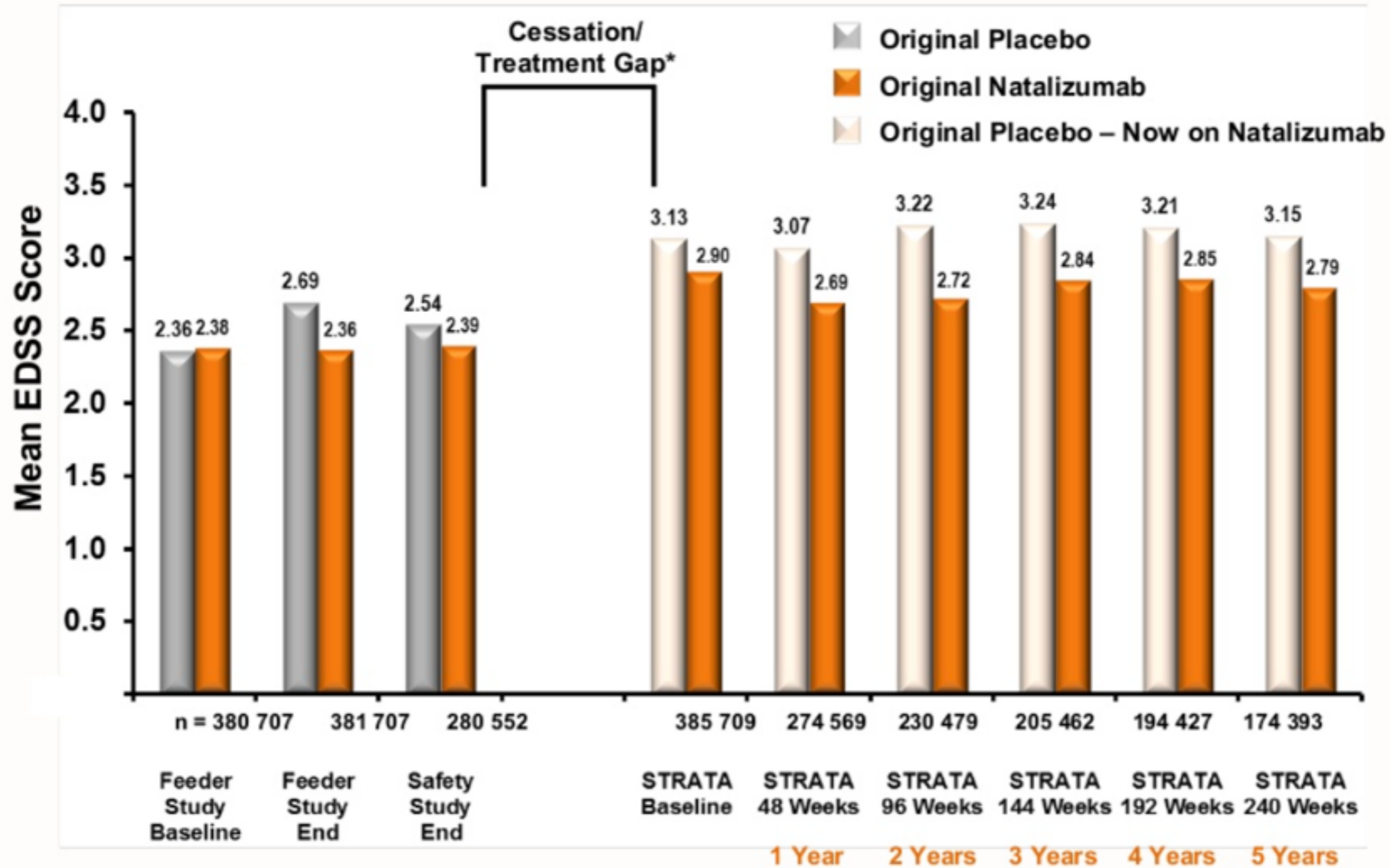
\*Alemtuzumab vs SC IFNB-1a,  $P < 0.0001$

**Alemtuzumab slowed the reduction in brain volume by 24% versus SC IFNB-1a at the end of the core CARE-MS II study**

**The slowing of brain volume loss in alemtuzumab patients was maintained through 5 years**

# NATALIZUMAB

## STRATA: Patients Had Stable EDSS Scores for up to 5 years (Patients in Phase III and extension studies)



\*P<0.0001

Kappos L et al. Presented at ECTRIMS; October 10–13, 2012; Lyon, France P520.

# Efficacy and Safety of Ocrelizumab in Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis - Results of the Phase III Double Blind IFNB-1a controlled OPERA I and II Studies

S L Hauser et al on behalf of the OPERA I and II clinical investigators  
ECTRIMS 2015. Platform #190

- Compared with IFNB-1a, ocrelizumab significantly reduced  
ARR  
12 and 24 week Confirmed Disability Progression  
T1 Gd+ enhancing lesions  
New and/or enlarging T2 lesions
- In exploratory analyses compared to IFNB-1a, ocrelizumab:  
Reduced Brain Volume loss  
Increased proportion of patients with NEDA
- Overall in Opera I and II, ocrelizumab had a similar safety profile with IFNB-1a over 96 weeks
- Opera I and II showed that targeting B-cells with ocrelizumab is a potential therapeutic approach in relapsing MS

Common sense favours zero tolerance to disease activity and to aim for NEDA (No Evidence of Disease Activity)

## Potential benefits of NEDA

1. Reduced acute brain & cord injury - relapse
2. Reduced later axonal attrition - sublethal axonal and oligodendrocyte injury and delayed degeneration
3. Reduced CNS colonization by ectopic lymphoid tissue\*
4. NAWM develops spreading microglial activation\*
5. Overall greater axonal preservation, clinical function (ambulation and cognition) and QOL

\* potential contribution to progressive phase



- Achieving NEDA reduces the probability of experiencing subsequent clinical and MRI disease activity
- NEDA-4 status has advantages over NEDA-3 in predicting subsequent disability and structural damage as expressed by BVL or up to 7 yrs
  - ( Note: NEDA-3 at one year was more closely correlated with relapses and new and enlarging T2 lesions)
- Overall these findings support the use of NEDA-4 as a more comprehensive and balanced measure for predicting long term disease evolution in RRMS

# Goal

Minimise, Prevent or Reverse disability

# Means to do so

Elimination or Suppression

(Finger on the STOP or PAUSE button)

# Elimination or Suppression

ALZ	70% “cure.”	Immune reconstitution Thyroid 36% ITP 1.6% GMB disease 0.3%	Accept current Risk Benefit
NTZ	Best suppression	PML Stratify*	Wait for better Risk Benefit
OCZ	Next best suppression		
FGL			

\* JCV Serology, duration, prior IS, JCV index/titre, CD4+ CD62L+ (L-selectin)

## 2. Case. 41yo F “Suppression”

- ◆ 1997. L monoc Uhthoffs phen (ON), dysequilibrium and Lhermitte’s phen.
- ◆ 2000. Exercise-diplopia, MRI worse, numerous calloso-septal plaques. IFNB-1b but ceased in favour of IVF pregnancy
- ◆ 2002. CS daughter. IFNB-1b. MRI “cystic” black holes
- ◆ 2003. Thermolability with polocrosse, tennis and walking > 1 km. MRI multiple new lesions
- ◆ 2006. Second daughter. Worsening leg function, no longer running, numb feet  
Worsening cognition but completed Dip Ed.  
School Landcare coordinator.  
Wildflower business.  
Extensive spinal and cranial MRI changes with more lesions.  
MxA-responder. IFNB-1b.

# Natalizumab versus Fingolimod

Braune et al *J Neurol* 2013 no difference between the two drugs over one year  
Kalincik et al *Ann Neurol* 2015 higher relapse rates with fingolimod.

## Danish Study. Koch Henriksen et al

All previously untreated Danish patients starting treatment after 2011 and who had received treatment for >6months were propensity score matched by logistic regression.

1211 RRMS . 531 NTZ and 670 FGL .  
Before PSM FGL < NTZ for RR  
After exclusion of unmatched 884 remained.  
On Rx ARR 0.31 NTZ and 0.30 FGL

**NO DIFFERENCE IN RELAPSE RATE (No MRI Data)**

Both controlled for:  
gender,  
number of relapses in the previous year,  
presence of GD+ lesions,  
EDSS scores  
hospitalizations

## French Study. Laplaud et al

RRMS patients from 27 specialized treatment centres  
prospective data NTZ 326  
FGL 303

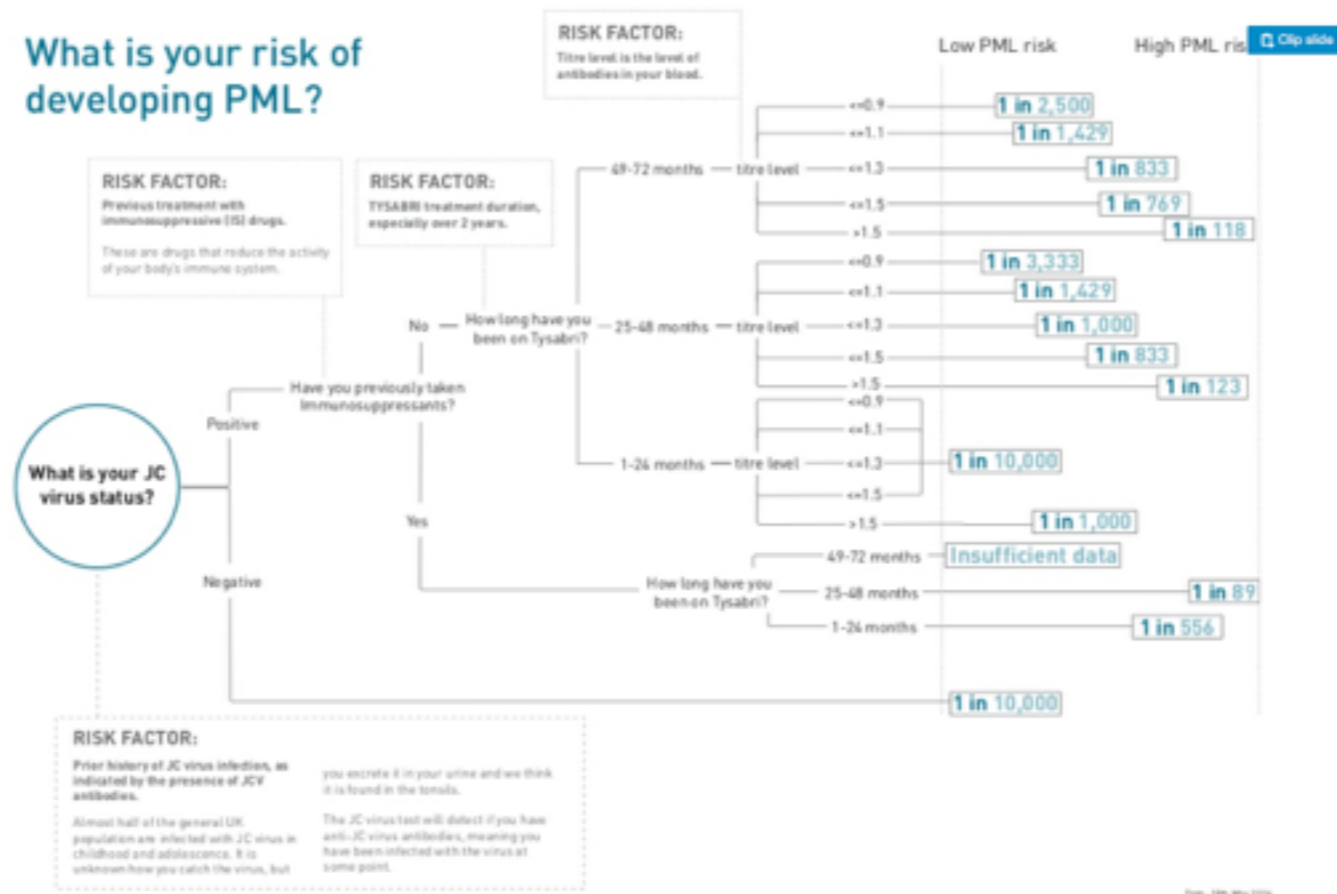
At two years (multivariate model)

**Risk of relapse,  
New Gd+ lesions  
New T2 lesions**      **FGL > NTZ**

Class IV evidence that natalizumab has better efficacy than fingolimod over two years.

# PML Risk

## Current practice Stratify Algorithm



## Alternative approach to rebalance Risk:Benefit

Ryerson LJ et al ECTRIMS 2015

### Cohorts



Standard Interval Dosing (SID)

4w +/- 2d

Extended Interval Dosing (EID)

4w+3d - 8w+5d

### PML Cases

SID

**4 cases**

1052 JCV+  
patient yrs

EID

**0 cases**

1090  
patient yrs

Post marketing

incidence

2.5 cases per  
1000 JCV+  
patient yrs

### Efficacy

No difference in clinical and imaging findings

Post marketing incidence: 566 cases over 415,207 patient years NTZ exposure.

Assuming 55% population JCV+:  $415,207 \times 0.55 = 228,364$  patient years exposure

# Measurement

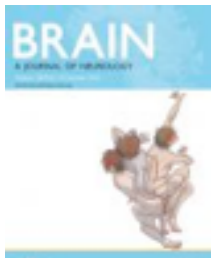
1. More sensitive measures of Disease activity  
Clinical: e.g. EDSS-plus  
MRI: Grey matter atrophy, PBVL, Cortical lesions
2. CIS conversion to CDMS  
MRI T2 lesion load  
CSF Chitinase 3-Like I (CHI3LI), Nf Light chain
3. Treatment endpoint(s) are there any?

**Rationale for EDSS-Plus.... Primary Composite Endpoint of Disability Progression.....ASCEND Phase 3 Study of Natalizumab for SPMS...A Post Hoc Analysis of IMPACT Study Data (P7.240)**

*Mikol D et al Neurology vol. 84 Suppl. P7. 240*

**Chitinase 3-like 1: prognostic biomarker in clinically isolated syndromes**

Ester Cantó, et al DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/brain/awv017> 918-931 First published online: 14 February 2015



# Progressive MS

2010

## 1 year of disease progression and

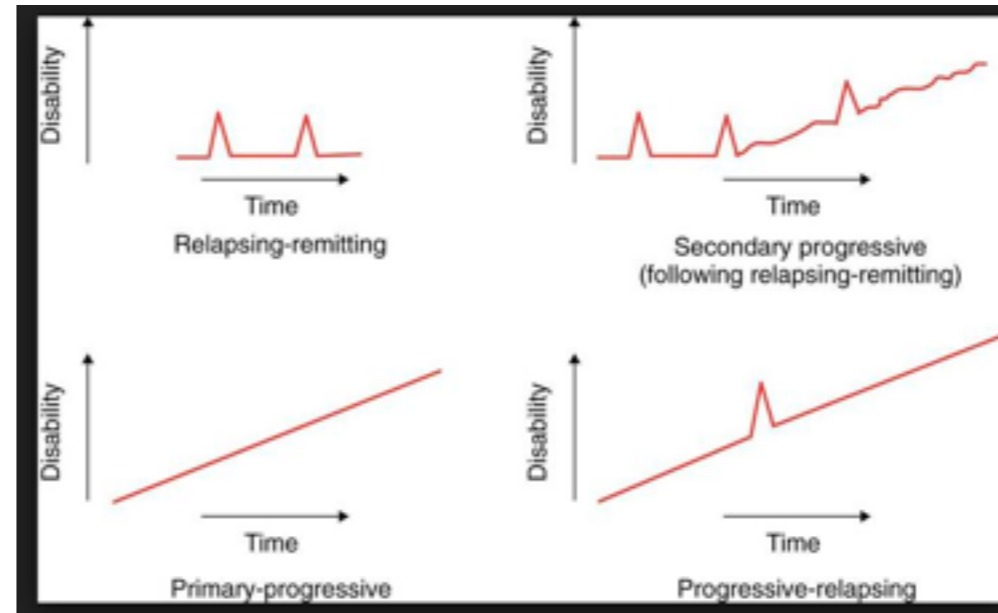
To harmonize MRI criteria within the diagnostic criteria for all forms of MS,

2 / 3 MRI or CSF findings be maintained but adoption of the new MAGNIMS brain imaging criterion for DIS

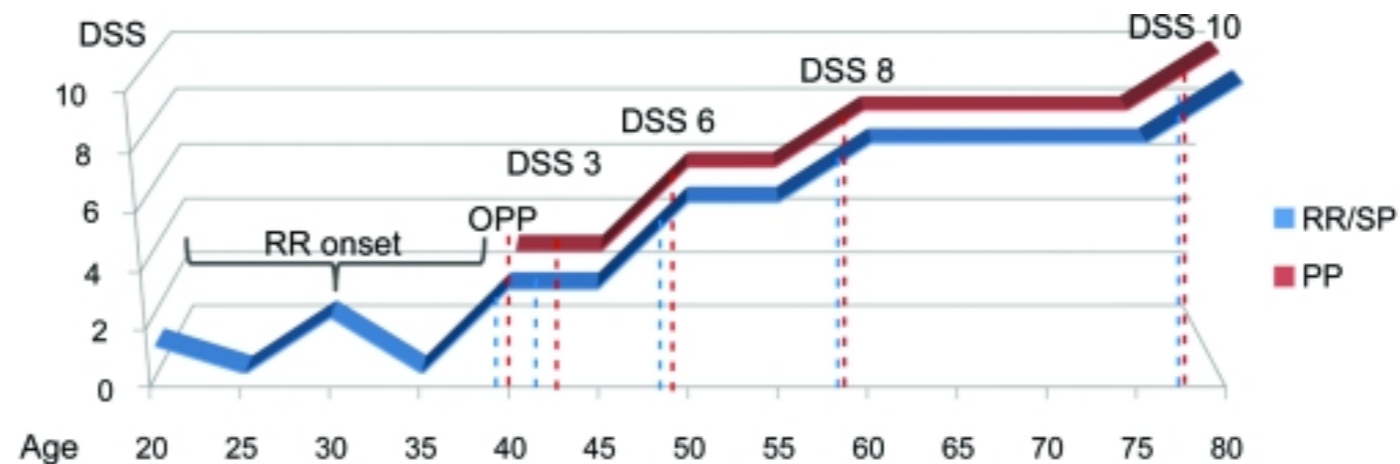
≥ 1 T2 lesions in at least 1 area characteristic for MS [periventricular, juxtacortical, or infratentorial]

≥ 2 T2 lesions in the cord

positive CSF (OCB, IgG index)



2013  
MS disease modifiers  
Phenotypes



Age at	OPP	p	DSS 3	p	DSS 6	p	DSS 8	p	DSS 10	p
RR/SP	40.2 (39)	0.09	41.6 (41)	0.82	49.7 (48)	0.05	59.2 (58)	0.44	76.1 (78)	0.63
PP	38.6 (40)		42.3 (43)		48.0 (49)		58.4 (58)		73.8 (78)	

p values obtained through Log Rank test



“Progression”?

What does it mean?

**Clinical** - accumulation of disability

- slow change over time
- with (SPMS) or without preceding relapses (PPMS)

**Imaging** – gradual tissue loss (atrophy/shrinkage)

- gradual accumulation/expansion of lesions

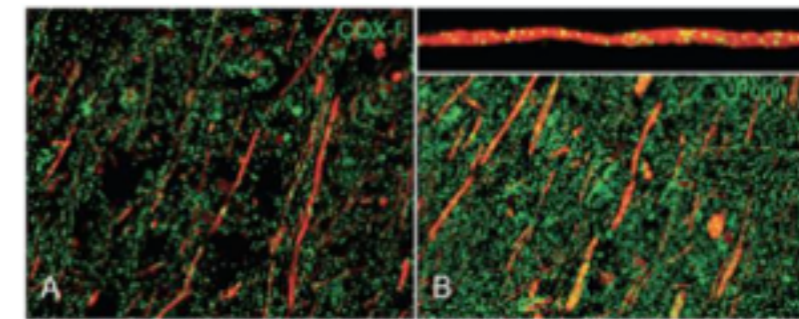
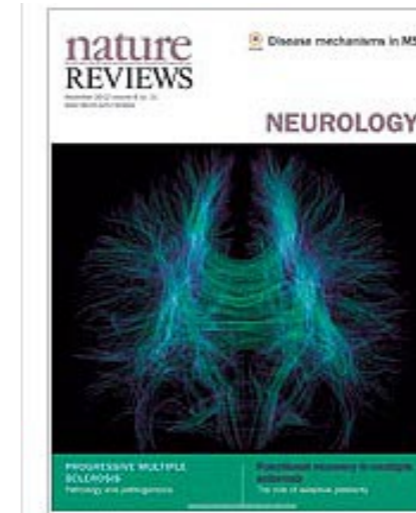
(increasing awareness of cortical and central grey matter involvement)

**Pathology** - axonal damage/loss

- neuronal loss/atrophy

# Possible pathological correlates of disease progression

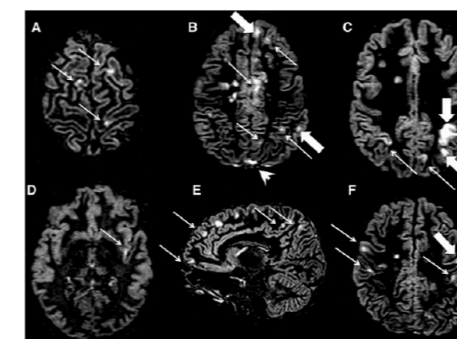
- Slowly expanding pre-existing lesions
- Persistent microglial activation
- Compartmentalized inflammation
- B cell/antibody involvement (EBV)
- Remyelination failure
- Mitochondrial dysfunction
- Axonal/neuronal loss
- Cortical/grey matter involvement
- Changes in the NAWM



**Mitochondria and disease progression in multiple sclerosis**

D. Mahad,<sup>\*</sup> H. Lassmann,<sup>†</sup> and D. Turnbull<sup>\*</sup>

*Neuropathol Appl Neurobiol.* 2008; 34(6): 577–589.

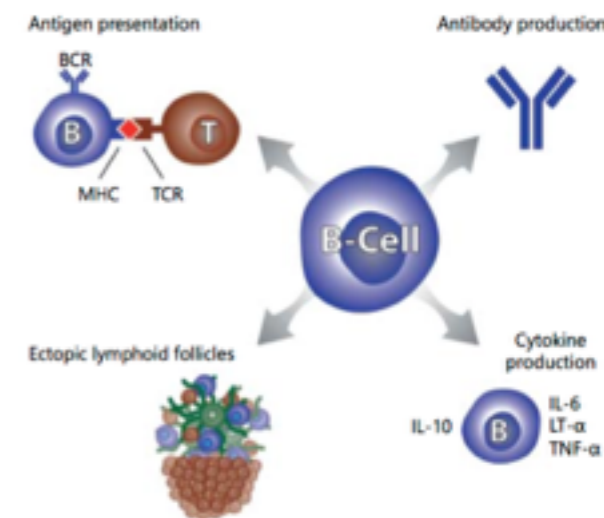


**BRAIN**  
A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY

**Cortical lesion load associates with progression of disability in multiple sclerosis**

Massimiliano Calabrese,<sup>1</sup> Valentina Poretto,<sup>1</sup> Alice Favaretto,<sup>1</sup> Sara Alessio,<sup>1</sup> Valentina Bernardi,<sup>1</sup> Chiara Romualdi,<sup>2</sup> Francesca Rinaldi,<sup>1</sup> Paola Perini<sup>1</sup> and Paolo Gallo<sup>1</sup>

# B-Cell targeted therapy in Progressive MS



## Olympus Rituximab

Failed to meet primary endpoint.

Showed an effect in post hoc analysis of patients <5 yrs

and those with Gd+ lesions (reduced HR compared to placebo for both groups)

## Oratorio Ocrelizumab

Attained primary endpoint - reduced confirmed disability progression (CPD) at 12wks by 24%  $p=0.032$

Reduced CPD at 24wks by 25%  $p=0.0365$

T25-FW decreased by 29% over 120wks

T2 lesion volume decreased by 3.4% over 120wks (placebo increased by 7.4%)

BVL reduced by 17.5% cf placebo over 120wks

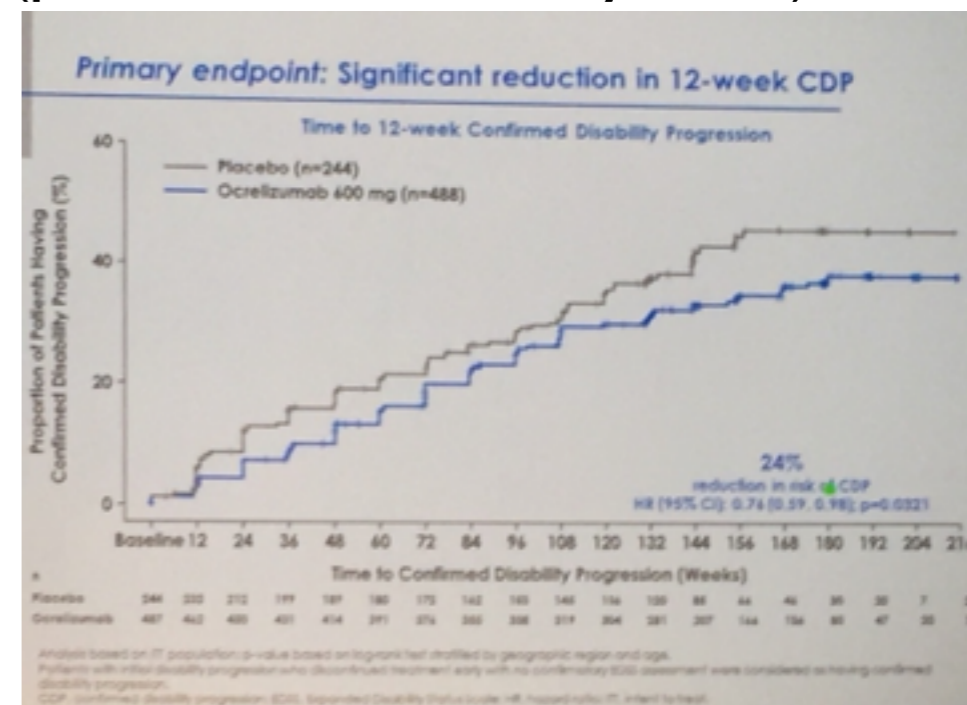
Note.

Young age mean 44,45yrs

Short disease duration 6.1, 6.7yrs

Short time from diagnosis 2.8, 2.9yrs

Numbers with Gd+ lesions 24.7, 27.5%



# Other treatments

## SPMS

Simvastatin reduced rate of brain atrophy by 43% pa over 2yrs

## Neuroprotection

Lamotrigine

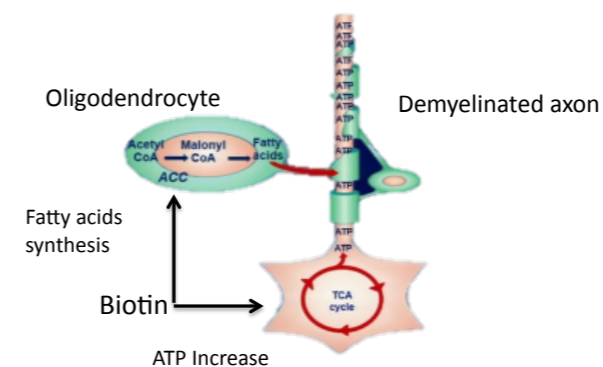
Phenytoin

AntiLINGO

MS SMART Amiloride, Riluzole, Fluoxetine

SPRINT Ibudilast

Biotin (MD1003)



Biotin targets two mechanisms that may underpin progressive MS

# INTERNATIONAL PROGRESSIVE MS ALLIANCE

**CONNECT** TO END PROGRESSIVE MS

## MANAGING MEMBERS:



## MEMBERS:

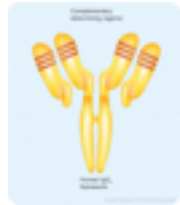


**Mission:**  
 To expedite the development of  
 effective disease modifying and  
 symptom management  
 therapies  
 for progressive forms of MS

# Medication

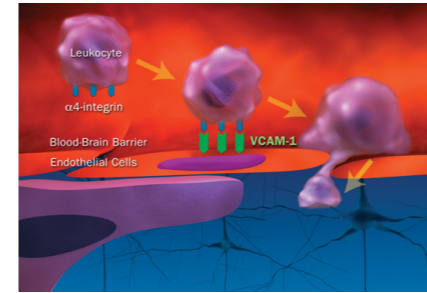
# MOA

# Monitoring



## Natalizumab

Humanized mAb targets  $\alpha 4$  integrin on leucocytes prevents encephalitogenic wbc traversing BBB (impairs T-cell reactivation and B cell proliferation)



## Alemtuzumab

Anti CD52 mAb (targeting T and B cells; B > T). Daily infusion with HDMP for 5 days once a year

300mg ivi/month  
LFT,FBP,JCV serology  
4-6monthly MRI

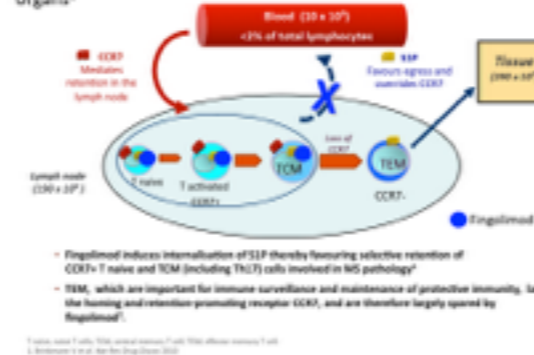
12mg ivi for 5 days  
with HDMP. Repeated  
for 3 days at 1yr  
6 monthly MRI



## Fingolimod

prevents T lymphocytes egress from LN

Fingolimod selectively retains circulating lymphocytes in lymphoid organs?

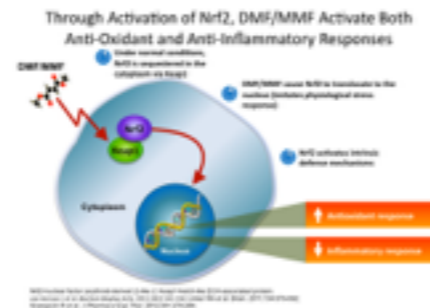


0.5mg od  
LFT,FBP,  
OCT maculae  
MRI 6 monthly

240mg bd po.  
LFT,FBP  
MRI 6 monthly

## Tecfidera

(BG12)



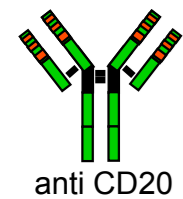
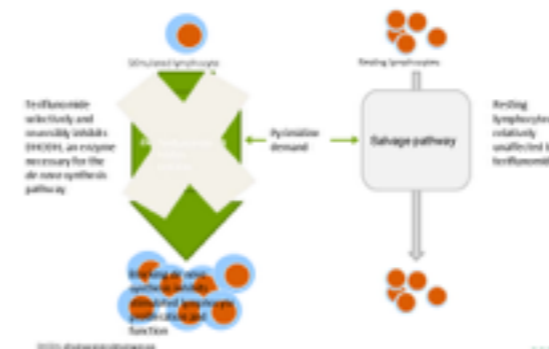
600mg ivi 6 monthly  
LFT, FBP & MRI  
6 monthly

## Ocrelizumab



14mg od po  
LFT,FBP & MRI  
6monthly

## Teriflunomide



anti CD20

# Redefining the evidence base to guide use

1. Advent of highly effective treatments has pushed out the duration of “early disease”

eg. Case on NTZ for 7 years - plus pretreatment time makes need for CARE MS 2 criteria to guide use of Alemtuzumab necessary

2. Progression has more than one cause.

eg. Case whose LL disability is progressing with increasing paresis/spasticity but who has relatively little intracranial disease evident may not be precluded from Alemtuzumab/NTZ

LL signs likely have an “hypoxic” cause not an inflammatory cause.  
Hence need to protect remainder of CNS not abandon it