**Online Resource 3. Baseline characteristics of patients initiating DMF – comorbidities**

|  | Treatment-naïve DMF patients<br>N = 156 | Patients switching to DMF from other DMTs<br>N = 244 |
|---|---|---|
| N (%) |  |  |
| Anxiety | 6 (4%) | 14 (6%) |
| Depression | 5 (3%) | 9 (4%) |
| Hypertension | 1 (1%) | 11 (5%) |
| Hyperlipidemia | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| Diabetes | 1 (1%) | 5 (2%) |
| Pain | 49 (31%) | 74 (30%) |

**Online Resource 3. Baseline characteristics of patients initiating DMF – comedications**

|  | Treatment-naïve DMF patients N = 156 | Patients switching to DMF from other DMTs N = 244 |
|---|---|---|
| N (%) |  |  |
| Drugs for peptic ulcer and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease | 19 (12%) | 44 (18%) |
| Vitamin A and D, including combinations of the two | 13 (8%) | 16 (7%) |
| Vitamin B12 and folic acid | 7 (4%) | 24 (10%) |
| Corticosteroids for systemic use, plain | 24 (15%) | 41 (17%) |
| Tetracyclines, beta-lactam antibacterials, penicillins | 36 (23%) | 68 (28%) |
| Antiinflammatory and antirheumatic products, non-steroids | 35 (22%) | 92 (38%) |
| Opioids | 18 (12%) | 27 (11%) |
| Other analgesics and antipyretics | 20 (13%) | 123 (50%) |
| Antiepileptics | 12 (8%) | 18 (7%) |
| Anxiolytics | 19 (12%) | 30 (12%) |
| Hypnotics and sedatives | 34 (22%) | 49 (20%) |
| Antidepressants | 19 (12%) | 53 (22%) |

**Online Resource 3. Baseline characteristics of patients initiating DMF – healthcare resource utilization in the past year**

| | Treatment-naïve DMF patients N = 156 | Patients switching to DMF from other DMTs N = 244 |
|---|---|---|
| Among all patients | | |
|     number of hospitalizations, mean (SD) | 0.7 (0.9) | 0.4 (0.9) |
|     in-hospital days, mean (SD) | 3.9 (9.0) | 2.0 (7.8) |
| Patients with at least one hospital admission, N (%) | 77 (49%) | 52 (21%) |
| Among patients with at least one hospital admission | | |
|     number of hospitalizations, mean (SD) | 1.4 (0.8) | 1.7 (1.4) |
|     in-hospital days, mean (SD) | 8.0 (12.0) | 9.3 (14.8) |
| Number of outpatient specialist visits, mean (SD) | 5.8 (4.0) | 5.4 (4.1) |
| Number of primary care visits, mean (SD) | 2.3 (2.7) | 2.2 (2.5) |
| Number of medication classes dispensed, mean (SD) | 3.4 (3.2) | 6.0 (4.4) |