



Time Interval Between Treatment Decision and Delivery of Anti-CD20 Therapy for Multiple Sclerosis: A Five-Year, Single Center Experience

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BACKGROUND

- Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurodegenerative disease that affects the central nervous system that is both T cell and B cell mediated. Anti-CD20 therapies mechanistically deplete B cells to suppress inflammatory disease activity.¹⁻²
- Rituximab and Ocrelizumab are anti-CD20 therapies integral in reducing relapses in multiple sclerosis. These therapies target CD20+ B cells and protect nerve cells from damage.³
- The high cost of disease modifying therapies creates issues of affordability and access for individuals. In a survey of individuals with MS, individuals reported skipping doses, delaying treatment, or reducing other spending because of the high cost of their DMT.⁴
- Social distancing measures during the COVID-19 era led to minimal access to healthcare which contributed to a 54% decrease in DMT initiations in the first 9 months of the COVID-19 era.⁵

OBJECTIVES

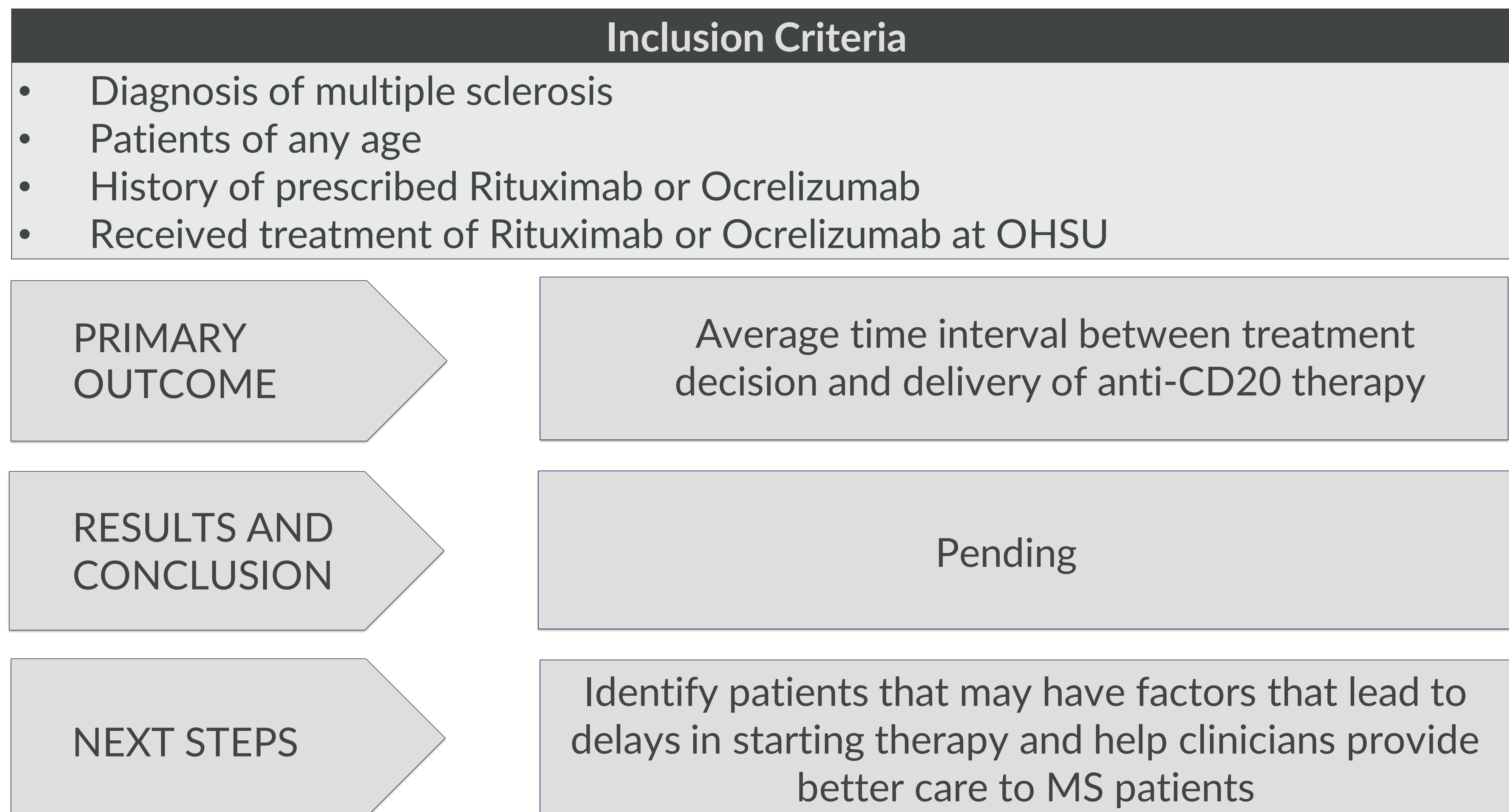
- Determine the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on delivery of anti-CD20 therapy
- Identify demographical or clinical factors impacting initiation of anti-CD20 therapy

PURPOSE

- The aim of this study is to identify factors that may have impacted the time interval between the decision to initiate anti-CD20 therapy and the start date of therapy

METHODS

- Retrospective single center observational study
- Study period: January 1, 2017-December 31, 2022
- Clinical characteristics collected were MS subtype, ambulatory status, year of diagnosis, and year of symptom onset
- Calculated the interval number of days between the dispense date and the initial neurology encounter for initiation of CD20 therapy



References

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