Table e-1. Immune suppressive or modifying drugs used before rituximab or at any time in the patients illness.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Drug or intervention | Before Rituximab | At any time |
| Corticosteroids | 138 | 138 |
| IVIG | 104 | 106 |
| Cyclophosphamide | 43 | 58 |
| Plasma exchange | 21 | 22 |
| Mycophenolate mofetil | 15 | 27 |
| Azathioprine | 13 | 19 |
| Tumour removal | 8 | 14 |
| Hydroxychloroquine | 5 | 7 |
| Beta interferon | 4 | 4 |
| Glatirimer acetate | 2 | 3 |
| Methotrexate | 2 | 2 |
| Infliximab | 2 | 2 |
| Natulizumab | 1 | 4 |
| Fingolimod | 0 | 1 |
| Hemispherectomy | 0 | 2 |
| Ofatumumab | 0 | 1 |

Table e-2. Dosage regimens employed were variable, as outlined below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dosage of rituximab | Number |
| 375mg/m2 weekly, 4 doses | 57 |
| 500mg/m2 fortnightly, 2 doses | 32 |
| 750mg/m2 fortnightly, 2 doses | 25\* |
| 1000mg fortnightly, 2 doses | 8 |
| 375mg/m2 fortnightly, 2 doses | 7 |
| 375mg/m2 weekly, 3 doses | 5 |
| Other | 10 |
|  |  |

\*In 13, the protocol used concomitant cyclophosphamide

Table e-3.

Comparison between early and late rituximab treatment groups for four main diseases.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Disease subgroups separated into early or late (yr) | Median duration disease at RTX initiation (yr) | No. | Cyclo at any stage | Median mRS at RTX initiation | Median mRS at outcome | Δ  Median mRS | Δ  mRS 0-2 | Median length of follow-up post RTX (yr) |
| NMDAR  Early (0.1) | 0.1 | 25 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 84% | 1.0 |
| NMDAR  Late  (0.1) | 0.4 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 57% | 2.0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OMAS  Early (1.05) | 0.43 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 93% | 2.25 |
| OMAS  Late (>1.05) | 1.85 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 62.5% | 2.95 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NMOSD  Early (0.77) | 0.28 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 30% | 1.1 |
| NMOSD  Late (0.77) | 3 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 30% | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NPSLE  Early (≤0.25) | 0.1 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 78% | 1.0 |
| NPSLE  Late (>0.25) | 3.4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 44% | 3.0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The median time of disease at rituximab administration was calculated for the four main diseases (NMDAR encephalitis, OMAS, NMOSD, NPSLE). We divided patients according to the median disease duration at the time of rituximab initiation into early (median) and late (median) in the four main subgroups. Many of the NMDAR encephalitis patients were given rituximab at 0.1 year of disease, hence the asymmetry of group sizes. Δ mRS mean is the difference in mean mRS between initiation of rituximab and the mean mRS at outcome. Δ mRS 0-2 is the difference between the percentage of patients with mRS 0-2 at outcome compared to rituximab (RTX) initiation.

Cyclo: cyclophosphamide, mRS: modified Rankin scale, NMDAR: NMDAR encephalitis, NMOSD: neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders, NPSLE: Neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus, OMAS: opsoclonus myoclonus ataxia syndrome, RTX: Rituximab.