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Demographics and Baseline Disease Characteristics of Patients With Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis From Kenya Participating in the CHIMES Trial

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BACKGROUND

There is a paucity of epidemiological studies on multiple sclerosis (MS) in Black people from Africa, and this ethnic population is historically underrepresented in MS.

The CHIMES trial (NCT04377555) is an ongoing, open-label, single-arm, Phase IV clinical study that is investigating the efficacy and safety of ocrelizumab (OCR) in Black and Hispanic patients with relapsing MS (RMS).

OCR, currently approved in North America for RMS and primary progressive MS and pending government approval in Kenya, is a humanised monoclonal antibody that selectively targets CD20+ B cells and reduces the rates of disease activity and progression.

Self-identified Black and Hispanic patients aged 18 to 65 years with RMS and an Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score of ≤5.5 were recruited at all study sites.

To promote inclusive recruitment in Kenya:
- Study-related patient materials were available in English and Kiswahili
- Flexible scheduling options were based on specific needs of the catchment area to also recruit from rural areas and comply with local healthcare ecosystems

Key Findings

- Of 182 enrolled patients, 10 are in Kenya and all self-identify as Black
- Kenyan patients have a lower mean body weight than the total population
- Kenyan patients were observed to have a lower mean body weight than the total population

CONCLUSIONS

- CHIMES is the first Phase IV clinical trial to prospectively assess patients with RMS from sub-Saharan Africa
- Differences observed in demographic and disease characteristics between patients with RMS enrolled in the Kenyan and North American sites highlight the importance of enrolling more diverse populations in RMS trials and conducting more demographic-specific studies

REFERENCES

4. DISCLOSURES
- Juzar Hooker has a pending patent filed for a device to treat stroke. J. Hooker has received honoraria for speaking, consulting or serving on steering committees for AbbVie, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono, Genentech, Inc., Janssen, Novartis, TG Therapeutics and Sanofi Genzyme.
- Dennis Okaka has received honoraria for speaking, consulting or serving on steering committees for AbbVie, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono, Genentech, Inc., Janssen, Novartis, TG Therapeutics and Sanofi Genzyme.
- Juan Acosta has received speaker fees from F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
- Mansoor Saleh has received speaker fees from F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
- Peter Bettli has received honoraria for speaking, consulting or serving on steering committees for AbbVie, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono, Genentech, Inc., Janssen, Novartis, TG Therapeutics and Sanofi Genzyme.
- Heidah Amariati is an employee of F. Hoffman La Roche Ltd, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Noureen Karimi is an employee of Biogen, Boston, MA, USA.
- Aisleen Shamshudin is an employee of Biogen, Boston, MA, USA.
- L. Amezcua has received speaker fees from F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
- J. Acosta has received speaker fees from F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland.
- S. Gondi has nothing to disclose.
- D. Okaka has nothing to disclose.
- J. Hooker has received honoraria for speaking, consulting or serving on steering committees for AbbVie, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono, Genentech, Inc., Janssen, Novartis, TG Therapeutics and Sanofi Genzyme.

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