

# ANALYSIS OF THE REASONS FOR CHANGING TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



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## Background and importance

Treatment for multiple sclerosis (MS) has changed in the last years. The introduction of new therapies has led to improve tolerance and new options in the progression of disease.

### Aim and objectives

To evaluate the reasons for changing treatment in patients diagnosed with MS and its economic impact.

### Materials and methods

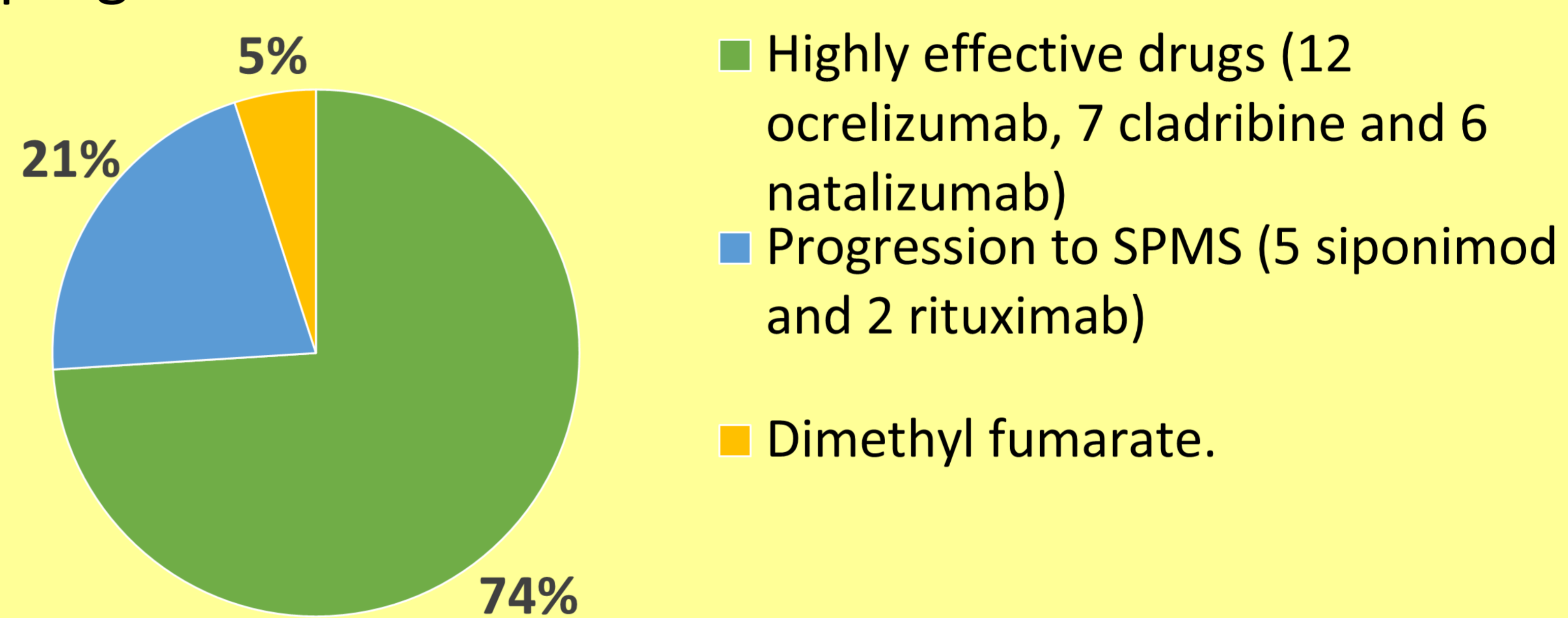
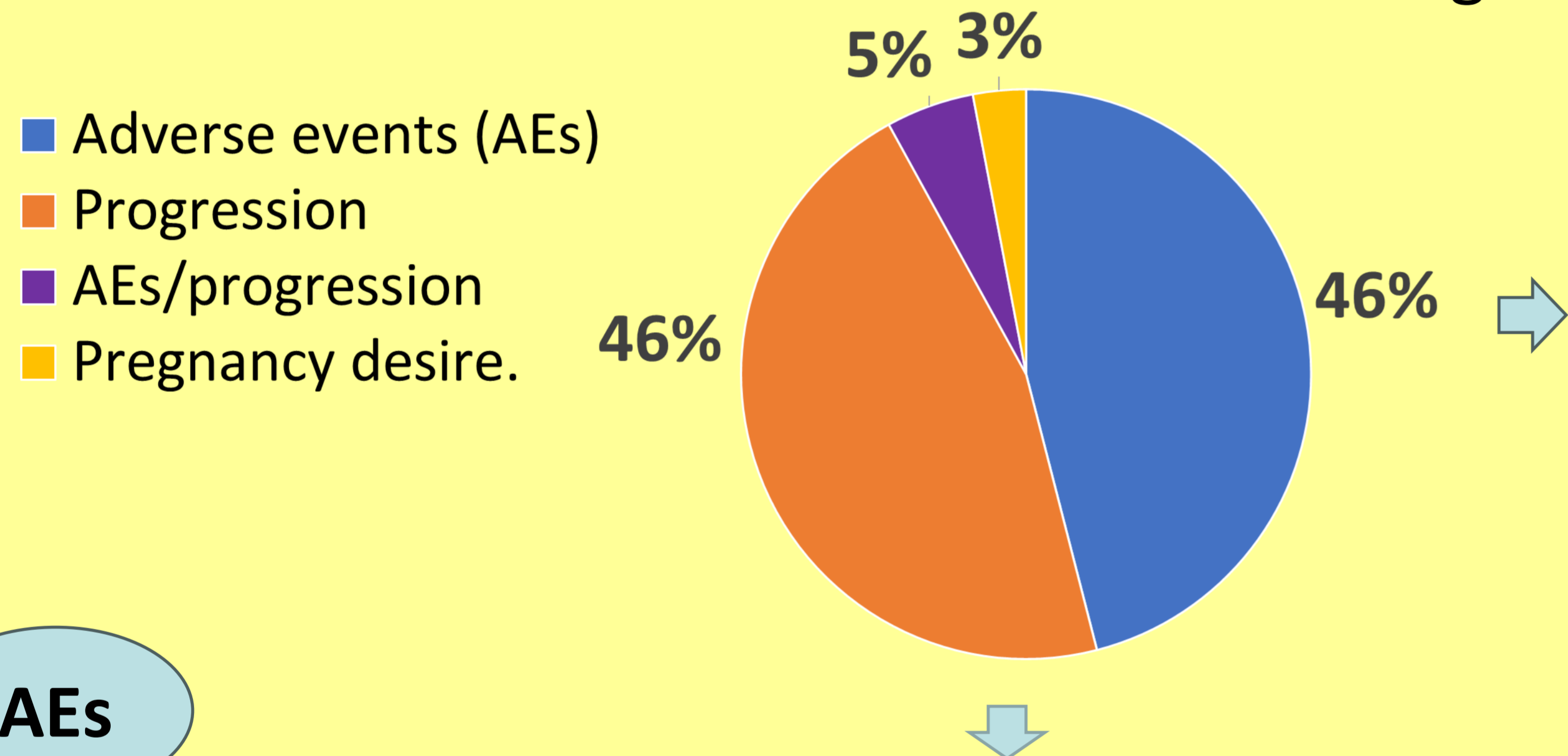
- Descriptive, retrospective and observational study of patients with MS, who changed treatment during 2022.
- The variables collected from the clinical history were: age, sex, type of MS, EDSS scale, previous and new treatment and reason for the change.
- The economic impact associated with treatment changes was also evaluated.

### Results

- ❖ During 2022 there were a 12% changed treatments (n=63/535 patients, 67 changes).
- ❖ 68% (n=43) were women with mean age of 45 years.
- ❖ At the moment of change, mean EDSS was 2.9 (0.0-7.0) and 86% (n=54) had a diagnosis of relapsing-remitting MS and 14% (n=9) of secondary progressive MS (SPMS).

Treatment changes were due to:

Changes for progression were:



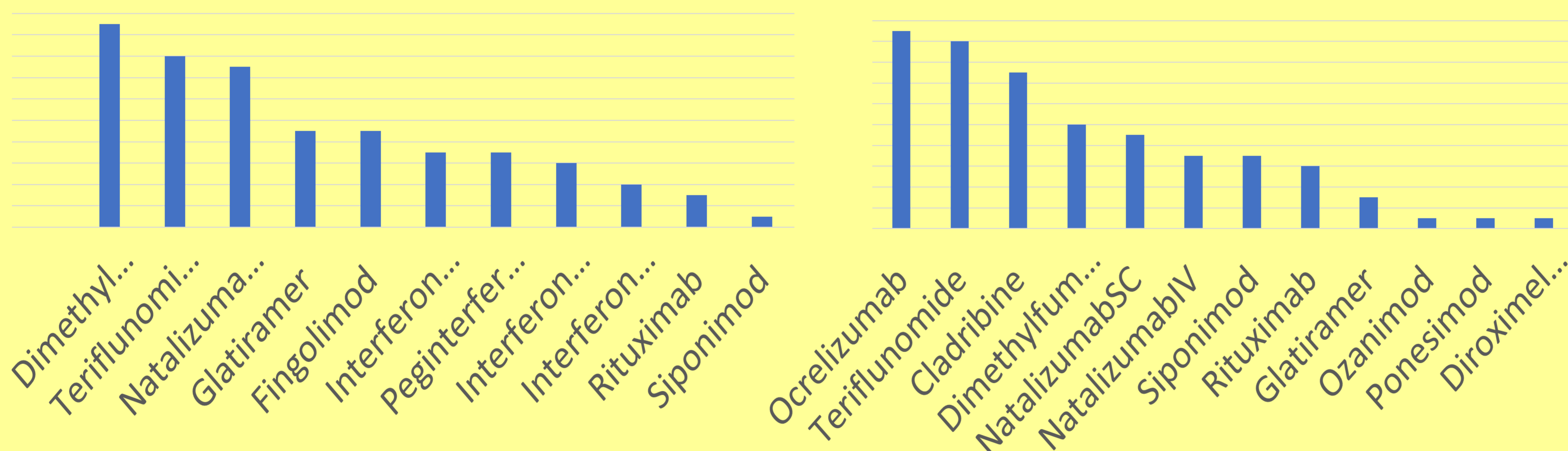
### AEs

50% injection side disorders ± flu-like symptoms (100% IM/SC drugs), 17% gastrointestinal disorders ± flushing or uncontrolled blood pressure (100% oral drugs), 15% infusion-related reactions, 12% lymphopenia and 3% hepatotoxicity and increased anti-JC titer.

100% SC/IM treatments → oral drugs and 100% natalizumab<sub>IV</sub> → natalizumab<sub>sc</sub>.

Previous treatments:

New treatments:



The mean monthly cost before the changes was 833€ and 1,543€ with the new treatments.

## Conclusion and relevance

The introduction of new therapies has led to have more therapeutic alternatives and well tolerated in those patients with AEs or progressive MS, but with higher economic impact.

