

BELIEFS ABOUT MEDICATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS TREATED WITH NATALIZUMAB



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ATC code: L04 - Immunosuppressive agents



4CPS-114

BACKGROUND

Patients' beliefs about medication tools can measure patients' concern and necessity of different long term treatment options and can be related with adherence and quality of life (QoL).

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To determine beliefs about medication and QoL of patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) on active treatment with natalizumab and analyze possible associations.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Descriptive observational study including patients diagnosed with RRMS on active treatment with natalizumab.
- Variables collected from clinical records:
 - Demographic: age and gender.
 - Clinical: time since diagnosis, expanded disability status scale (EDSS), adherence and duration of treatment.
- Questionnaires:

Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ)

- Validated questionnaire which evaluates:
 - Personal **necessity** for medication
 - **Concerns** about potential adverse effect (AE)
- Each questionnaire contains 5 questions
- Total score: **5 - 25**

Quality of life (QoL)

Euro QoL-5D

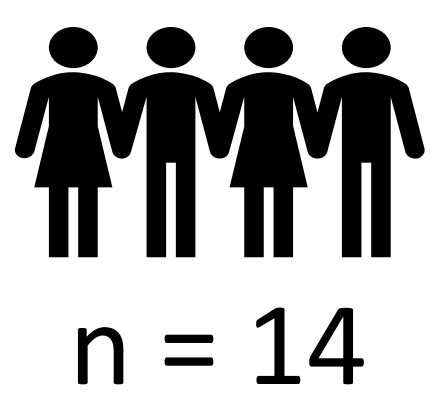
- Comprises 5 dimensions:
 - Mobility
 - Self-care
 - Usual activities
 - Pain/discomfort
 - Anxiety/depression
- Total score: **0 - 1**

VAS

- Validated visual scale
- Total score: **0 - 100**

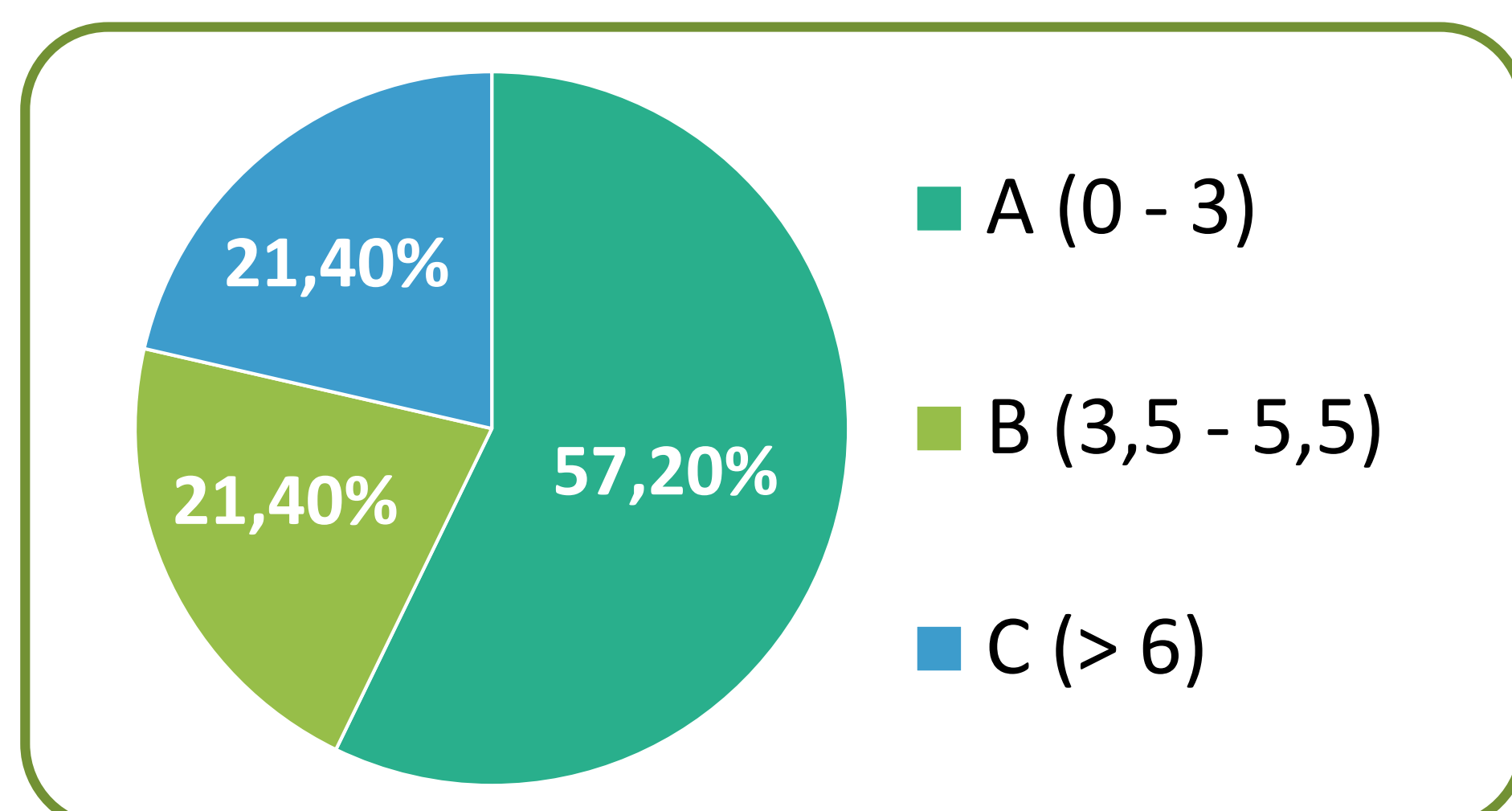
- Patients consent was requested
- Statistical and multivariate analysis: SPSS v19.0.

RESULTS



n = 14

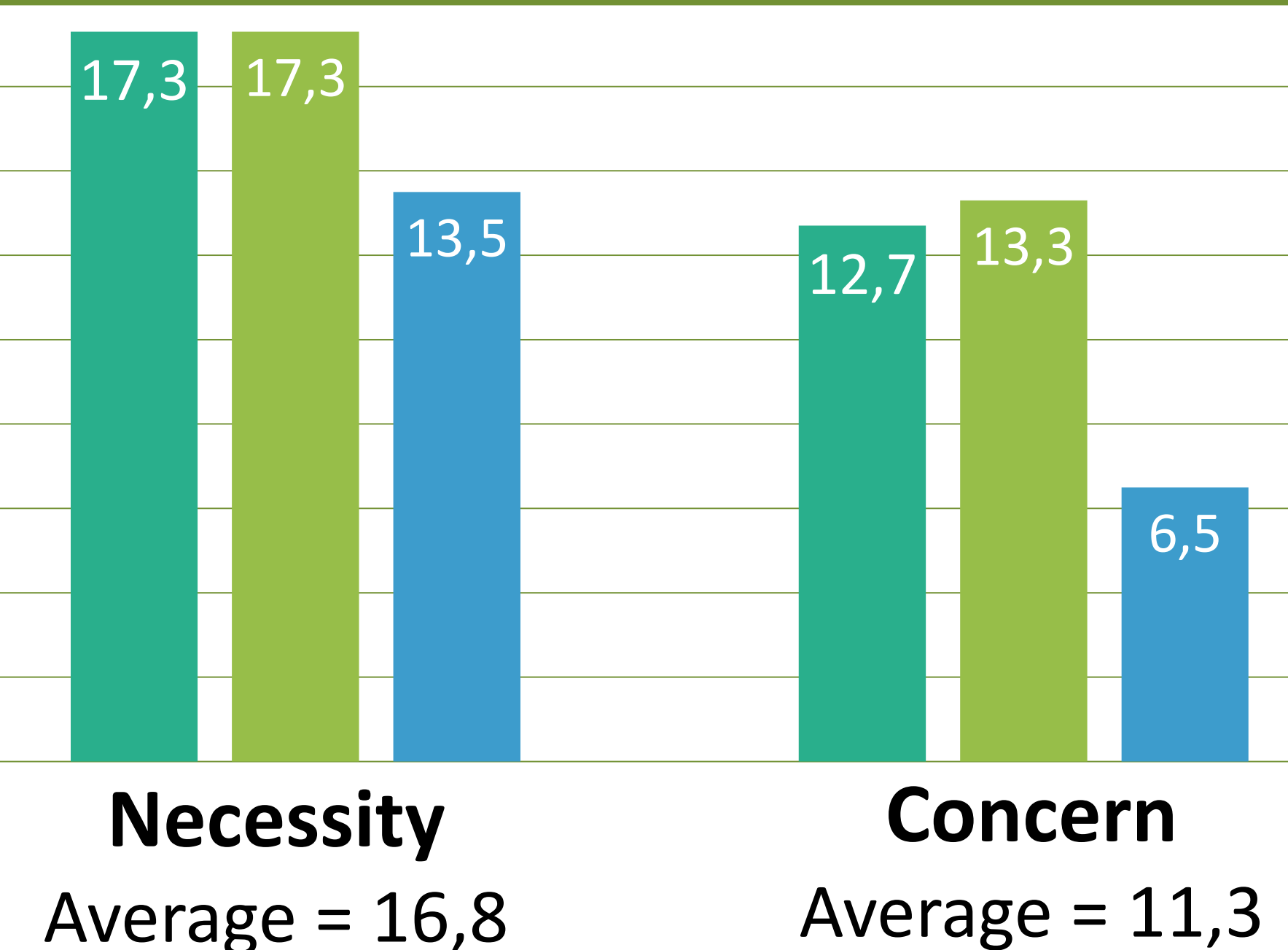
- 78,6% women
- Median age: 40 years
- Time from diagnosis: 8,5 years
- Duration of treatment: 37 months
- Adherence: 98%



Analysis by subgroups →

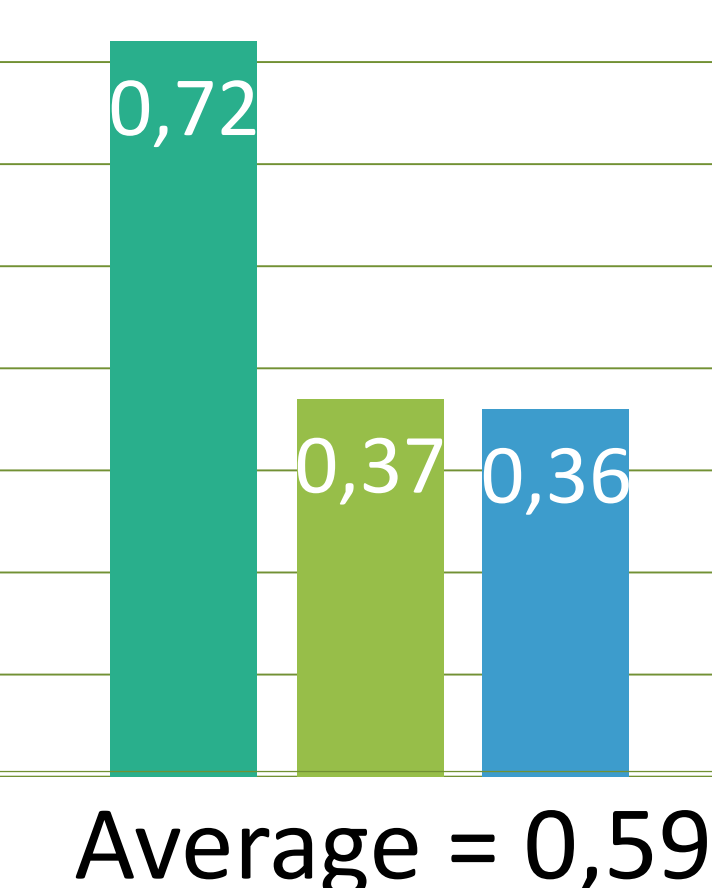
QUESTIONNAIRES RESULTS

Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ)

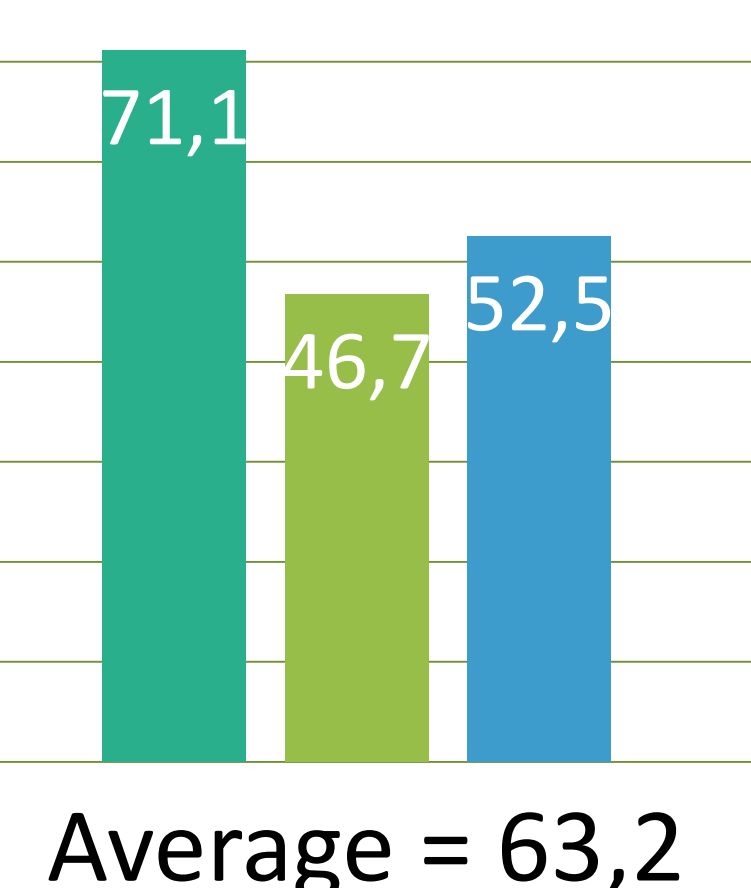


Quality of Life (QoL)

Euro QoL-5D



VAS



Multivariate analysis:

- Patients with longer treatments are less concerned about AE ($p < 0,05$)
- Patients with higher EDSS had lower EuroQoL-5D and VAS scores ($p < 0,05$)
- Older patients with longer time since diagnosis obtained lower QoL values ($p < 0,05$).

CONCLUSIONS

Most patients show higher scores in perception of necessity for treatment than in the concern about the AE of natalizumab, decreasing with longer treatments. Patients' disability, age and evolution time significantly decrease the QoL measures.