**Supplementary Table S1. Comparison between 687 unmatched and 2722 matched MS patients with a minimum follow-up period of 1.5 years following first DMT initiation and ≥1 follow-up after 2019**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Unmatched (N=687)** | **Matched (N=2722)** | **p-value** |
| **Sex**, N (%) |  |  | ***<0.001Chi*** |
| Female | 530 (77.1) | 1906 (70.0) |  |
| Male | 157 (22.9) | 816 (30.0) |  |
| **Age at MS symptom onset [years]**, mean (SD) | 32.5 (10.9) | 36.7 (10.6) | 0.054t |
| **Age at first DMT start [years]**, mean (SD) | 35.6 (11.5) | 33.4 (10.3) | 0.121t |
| **Time from diagnosis to first DMT [years]**, mean (SD)\* | 1.1 (2.0) | 0.95 (1.7) | ***0.034t*** |
| **Partnership status**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.164Chi |
| Single | 152 (28.1) | 622 (31.4) |  |
| Any partnership | 388 (71.9) | 1360 (68.6) |  |
| **Employment status**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.614Fi |
| In training | 38 (7.4) | 148 (7.5) |  |
| Employed – full time | 275 (53.3) | 1048 (53.4) |  |
| Employed – part time | 115 (22.3) | 377 (19.2) |  |
| Retired – disability | 37 (7.2) | 161 (8.2) |  |
| Retired – old age | 9 (1.7) | 38 (1.9) |  |
| Other | 42 (8.1) | 189 (9.6) |  |
| **Educational level**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.195Fi |
| NSCE | 4 (0.8) | 22 (1.2) |  |
| CSE/GCSE | 268 (53.1) | 1093 (57.7) |  |
| Advanced technical college entrance qualification | 60 (11.9) | 187 (9.9) |  |
| A level | 173 (34.3) | 592 (31.3) |  |
| **Observation period since first DMT start [years]**, mean (SD) | 4.1 (2.1) | 4.4 (1.8) | ***0.001t*** |
| **Calendar period of first DMT start**, N (%) |  |  | ***<0.001Chi*** |
| 2014–2017 | 415 (60.4) | 1925 (70.7) |  |
| 2018–2021 | 272 (39.6) | 797 (29.3) |  |
| **First DMT class**, N (%) |  |  | 0.085Chi |
| Mild to moderate efficacy | 508 (73.9) | 2100 (77.1) |  |
| High efficacy | 179 (26.1) | 622 (22.9) |  |
| **Time on first DMT [years]**, mean (SD) | 2.3 (1.4) | 3.0 (2.1) | ***<0.001t*** |
| **EDSS at first DMT start**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.639Fi |
| Mild [0.0–2.5] | 248 (83.5) | 849 (82.1) |  |
| Moderate/Severe [≥3.0] | 49 (16.5) | 185 (17.9) |  |
| **EDSS worsening within 6 months before first DMT cessation/last follow-up**, N (%)\* | 4 (1.0) | 7 (0.4) | 0.249Chi |
| **ARR at first DMT start** (95% CI) | 0.18 (0.15–0.21) | 0.23 (0.21–0.25) | ***0.007Kru*** |
| **Relapses within 6 months after first DMT start**, N (%) | 39 (5.7) | 211 (7.8) | 0.075Chi |
| **ARR at first DMT cessation/last follow-up** (95% CI) | 0.18 (0.14–0.22) | 0.22 (0.19–0.24) | 0.088Kru |
| **MRI results at first DMT start**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.543Chi |
| Stable | 23 (34.8) | 60 (29.9) |  |
| Unstable | 43 (65.2) | 141 (70.1) |  |
| **MRI results within 6 months after first DMT start**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.377Chi |
| Stable | 77 (57.9) | 319 (62.5) |  |
| Unstable | 56 (42.1) | 191 (37.5) |  |
| **MRI results at first DMT cessation/last follow-up**, N (%)\* |  |  | 0.375Chi |
| Stable | 183 (72.9) | 708 (75.9) |  |
| Unstable | 68 (27.1) | 225 (24.1) |  |

ARR – annualized relapse rate

CI – confidence interval

Chi – chi-square test

CSE/GCSE – certificate of secondary education/ general CSE

DMT – disease-modifying therapy

EDSS – expanded disability status scale

Fi – Fisher’s exact test

Kru – Kruskal-Wallis test

MRI - magnetic resonance imaging

MS – multiple sclerosis

N – number of patients

NSCE – no school-leaving certificate

SD – standard deviation

t – Student's t test

\* – denominators may differ due to missing values