SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Real-World Steroid Burden, Treatment Patterns, and Rheumatologists' Perceptions on Advanced Therapy in Giant Cell Arteritis

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SUPPLEMENTARY METHODS

Glucocorticoid dose calculations

Oral glucocorticoid (GC) doses were calculated using line-based treatment history. For each treatment line, physicians documented treatment dates, GC type, starting dose, and tapering details, including tapering outcomes. This approach enabled detailed characterisation of treatment patterns, dose modifications, tapering attempts, and periods without oral GC use.

To calculate the cumulative GC dose, each treatment line during the observation period was converted to its Prednisolone equivalent and summed together using the following calculations:

- If a constant dose was received over a treatment line, the cumulative dose was calculated as “dose at initiation of the line” multiplied by “duration of the treatment line”
- If a treatment line contained a tapering attempt, the cumulative dose was calculated by summing the doses of the start, middle and end periods of the taper
    - The cumulative dose of the start period = dose at the start of the line * duration of the start dose
    - The cumulative dose of the end period = dose at the end of the line * duration of the end dose
    - The cumulative dose of the middle period was estimated using mean value of the start and end doses as follows: ((start dose + end dose)/2) * (total duration of line – duration of start dose – duration of end dose)

Comorbidities

The following list was used to ask physicians if their patients had been diagnosed with any concomitant conditions:

- Alopecia areata
- Atopic dermatitis
- Axial Spondylarthritis (axSpA)
- Coeliac Disease
- Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS)
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Systemic Lupus Erythematous (SLE)
- Lupus nephritis (LN)
- Polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR)?
- Psoriasis
- Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Sjögren's Syndrome
- Vitiligo
- Myocardial infarction
- Congestive heart failure
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Hemiplegia or paraplegia
- Dementia
- Chronic pulmonary disease
- Rheumatologic disease

- Peptic ulcer disease
- Diabetes without chronic complications
- Diabetes with chronic complications
- Renal disease
- Any malignancy, including leukaemia and lymphoma
- Metastatic solid tumour
- Mild liver disease
- Moderate or severe liver disease
- Obesity
- Osteoporosis
- AIDS/HIV
- Long term effects of COVID-19
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Other

Of note, both diabetes with and without chronic complications were included on this list as this was used to calculate the patients Charlson comorbidity index (CCI), where chronic diabetes was covered in the CCI.