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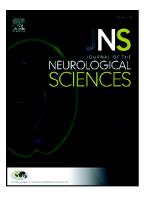
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Long-term follow-up for multiple sclerosis patients initially treated with interferon-beta and glatiramer acetate

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Subjects treated with glatiramer acetate and interferon beta were compared.
- Long-term clinical outcomes were similar in the groups.
- Baseline features were not predictive of treatment effect.

ABSTRACT

Objective: Our goal was to compare subjects treated with glatiramer acetate (GA) and interferon-beta (IFN- β) in terms of long-term clinical outcomes.

Methods: Subjects enrolled in the CLIMB who initiated either GA or IFN- β within five years of disease onset and prior to 2008 were identified (n=150 for GA and n=144 for IFN- β). The two treatment groups were compared in terms of long-term clinical outcomes: time to EDSS 4, time to EDSS 6 and EDSS score seven years after treatment initiation. Baseline confounders included in our analysis were age, gender, disease duration, attacks in the previous year, EDSS prior to treatment initiation, and year of treatment

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