



IMMUNOMODULATORS AND IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS FOR PATIENTS WITH RELAPSING-REMITTING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: A NETWORK META-ANALYSIS



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Objectives

- The aim of this study was to synthesize the evidence of clinical outcomes for alemtuzumab, cladribine, daclizumab, dimethyl fumarate, fingolimod, glatiramer acetate, interferons, natalizumab, ocrelizumab, peginterferon and teriflunomide in adults with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.

Methods

- A systematic review was performed by Medline, Scopus and manual search (May 2017);
- Bayesian network meta-analyses were conducted, of randomized clinical trials that evaluated any of the disease modifying therapies head-to-head or against placebo;
- For efficacy, the annualized relapse rate was considered, whereas safety was evaluated through discontinuation due to adverse events in 96 weeks;
- Surface Under the Cumulative Ranking analysis (SUCRA), Cochrane tool for risk of bias (v2.0) [1] and GRADE [2] were used to ranking therapies, assess methodological bias, and quality of general evidence, respectively;
- Statistical analyses were performed using software R v. 3.4.1/R studio 1.0.153 [3].

Results

Thirty-three studies were included in the meta-analyses (Figure 1 and 2). All therapies were most effective than placebo. The highest rates, considering the outcome annualized relapse rate were alemtuzumab, natalizumab, and ocrelizumab [Hazard Ratio versus placebo, of 0.31 (95% Credibility Interval (CrI) 0.26, 0.38), 0.31 (95% CrI 0.27, 0.36)

and 0.37 (95%CrI 0.31, 0.36), respectively] (Figure 3), without significant differences between these three therapies. Discontinuation due to adverse events (96-weeks) revealed similarity across all therapies compared to placebo (Figure 4).

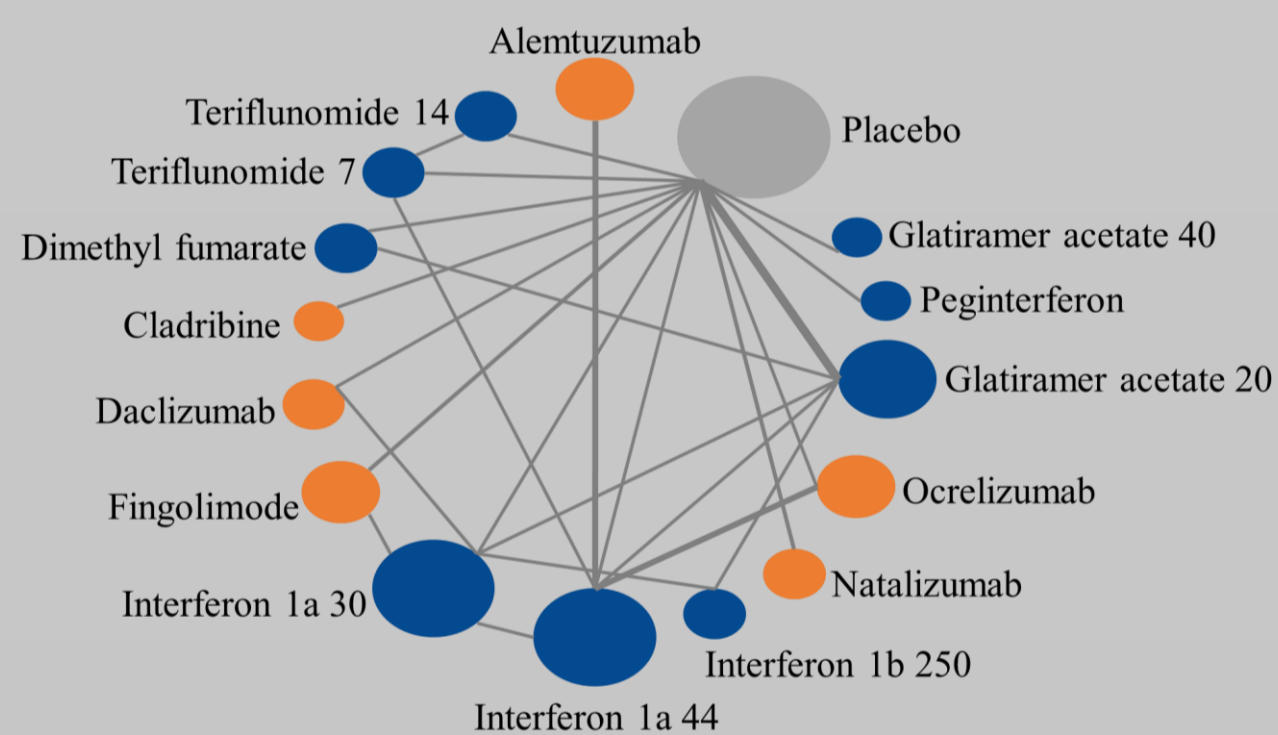


Figure 1. Network meta-analysis of annualized relapse rate.

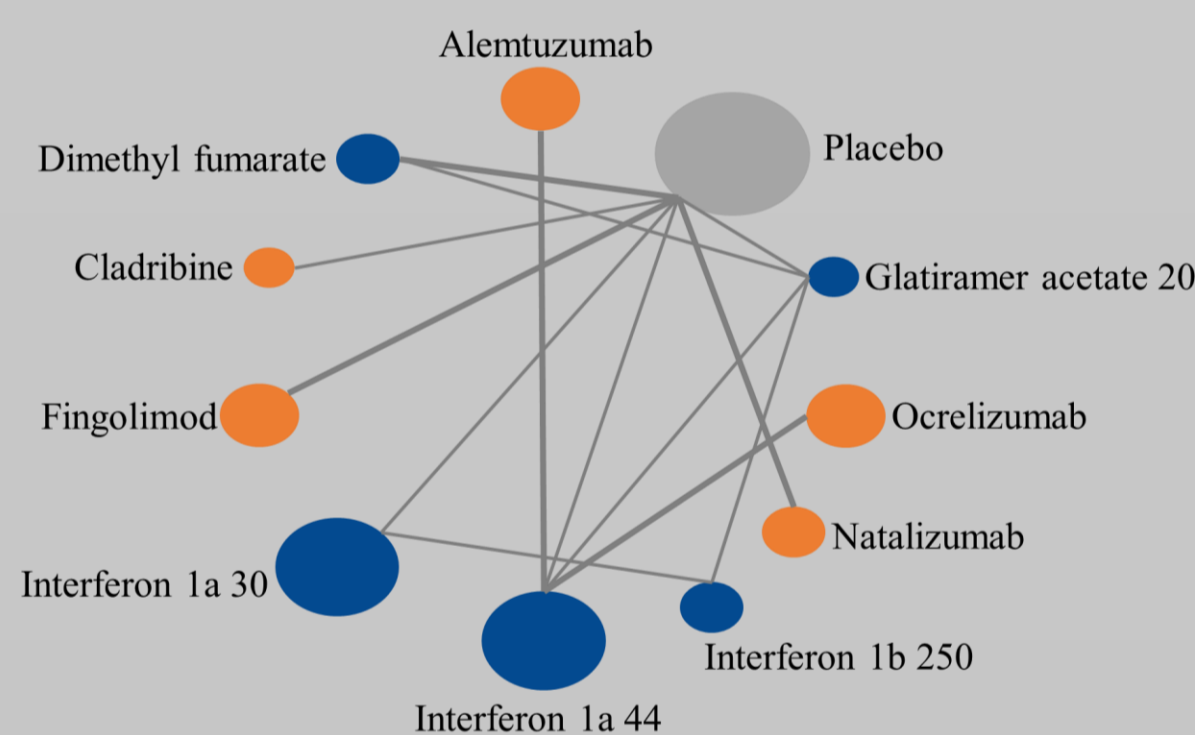


Figure 2. Network meta-analysis of discontinuation due to adverse events in 96 weeks.

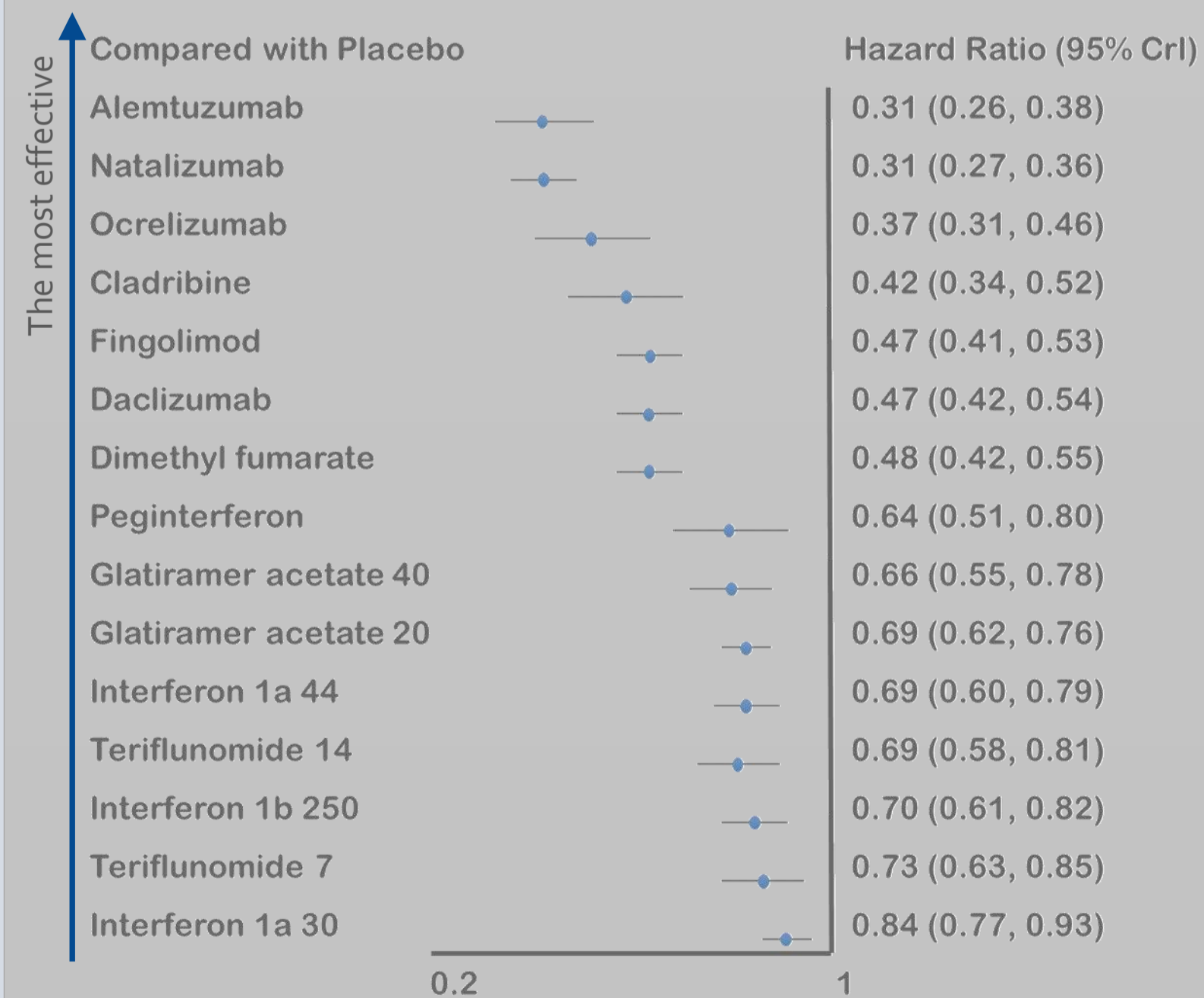


Figure 3. Forest plot of network meta-analysis comparing all therapies with placebo for annualized relapse rate, ranked by SUCRA.

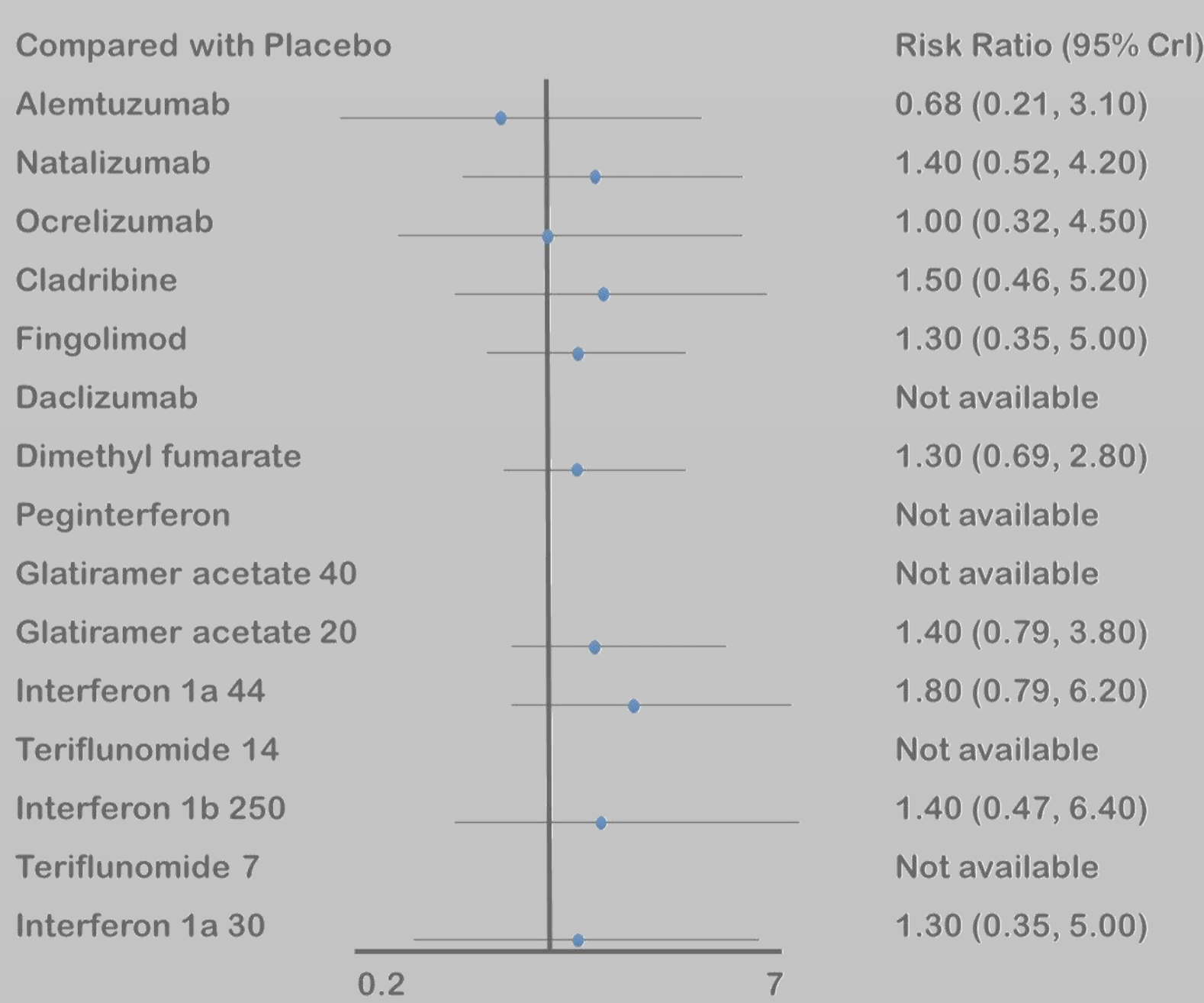


Figure 4. Forest plot of network meta-analysis comparing all therapies with placebo for discontinuation due to adverse events in 96 weeks.

Conclusions

Alemtuzumab, natalizumab, and ocrelizumab are the best choices considering clinical efficacy without compromising patient's safety (high quality evidence).