Recent Developments in MS

MS developments keep on coming! Research continues to develop useful treatments:

Two new MS treatments, **Mavenclad** and **Mayzent**, were recently approved by the FDA. **Mavenclad** (cladribine) is a new medicine made by Serono/Merck. Clinical trial work shows cladribine is effective against relapsing forms of MS. **Mayzent** (siponimod) is a new medicine made by Novartis. A clinical trial showed spionimod is effective against relapsing forms of MS. Both of these drugs are available commercially. Please ask for more information from your BIDMC MS team.

**High-dose biotin** is a vitamin shown to help stabilize MS progression. We have also found benefit in some BIDMC MS patients. There are essentially no risks to use of biotin. It does need to be dosed at 100 mg 3x a day, which requires use of a compounding pharmacy. Please ask us to help you set up a prescription.
Anti-Lingo Antibody is a remyelination treatment that showed some efficacy in optic neuritis and MS clinical trials. Another phase 2 trial is planned. Another remyelination treatment, rIgM22, completed phase 1 trials for safety but work has stalled at least for the moment.

**BIDMC at MS Meetings**

Members of the BIDMC MS Center will be attending and/or presenting data at various upcoming MS meetings. Our BIDMC MS nurse Pamela Johnson will be attending the CMSC (Consortium of MS Centers) Training session for Behavioral care in Hackesack, New Jersey over the summer of 2019.

Dr. Jacob Sloane will be attending the ECTRIMS (European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis) Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden from 9/11/19 to 9/13/19. He will be meeting with leaders in MS research and representatives of multiple MS pharmaceutical companies to discuss new developments and the future of MS
New Developments at the BIDMC MS Center

Starting July 2020, we will have a new MS Fellow, Loulwah Mukkaresh. Having finished her neurology residency at George Washington University, Loulwah will be doing a combined MS fellowship at Johns Hopkins MS Center as well as the BIDMC MS Center will be joining us in the MS clinic. We are excited to have her join the MS Center as a fellow at BIDMC!

Aditi Dave is the new Pharmacist at the BIDMC MS Center. She can answer many questions about MS treatments or other medicines. She also is a resource about insurance and specialty pharmacy programs and policies. Please help us welcome her to the MS Center!

BIDMC Clinical Trials

- We have many ongoing clinical trials at the BIDMC MS Center. Please see our webpage [www.bidmc.org/Centers-and-Departments/Departments/Neurology/Multiple-Sclerosis-Clinic](http://www.bidmc.org/Centers-and-Departments/Departments/Neurology/Multiple-Sclerosis-Clinic) for more details of each study.
- Two studies evaluate the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of MS treatments Mavenclad and Gilenya. One study evaluates the dosing timing of natalizumab. Another study evaluates opicinumab in remyelination in MS. Patients can enroll in these studies so please ask about them.
  1. **PASSAGE** (Safety study for Fingolimod or other treatment)
  2. **CLICK-MS** (Cladribine in relapsing MS)

Publications (cont)

Bouley A, Sloane JA. Screening for tuberculosis in an outpatient population of multiple sclerosis. CMSC, 2018

Lex H et al. Social-Emotional Aspects of Quality of Life in Multiple Sclerosis, AAN 2018

Sloane JA et al. Delayed-release dimethyl fumarate demonstrated no difference in clinical outcomes versus fingolimod in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis: results from the real-world EFFECT Study, AAN 2018

Ouellette R et al. Characterization of multiple sclerosis grey and white matter pathology in the brain and spinal cord at 7 Tesla MRI. ECTRIMS, Berlin 2018

Titelbaum D et al. Inter-scanner variability may lead to differences in detection rate of leptomeningeal enhancement on 3D-FLAIR MRI in multiple sclerosis.
3) **AFFINITY** (Opicinumab in remyelination in MS)

4) **NOVA** (Extended interval dosing of Natalizumab)

- We have several exciting and ongoing research studies
  
  1) **Neuroplasticity study** (for new Tecfidera starts)

  2) **Ultra-high resolution MRI studies** (for newly diagnosed MS or progressive MS)

  3) **SOMNUS Study** (studying sleep apnea in MS)

  4) **LANTERN Study** (Longitudinal Assessment of Neuroprotection, Treatment, and Repair in Multiple Sclerosis) (for any and all MS patients)

**DONATIONS**

Our desire to prevent or even cure Multiple Sclerosis is unmatched at the BIDMC, and the biggest limitations we face are availability of funds for our clinical and research work.

Private support is essential in these times. Donations help sponsor clinical fellows and clinical or research work that could have great impact on finding better MS treatments or improving lives of MS patients.

If you want to make a gift online, please direct your computers to [http://www.bidmc.org/Give-to-BIDMC.aspx](http://www.bidmc.org/Give-to-BIDMC.aspx)

To talk to someone about making a gift, please contact the the BIDMC Office of Development (**617-667-7330**) or the BIDMC MS Center (**617-667-3742**).