

TERIFLUNOMIDE: A NEW EFFECTIVE ORAL DISEASE MODIFYING AGENT FOR RELAPSING MS

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Teriflunomide is a novel agent being developed for the treatment of relapsing MS. It acts by blocking de novo synthesis of pyrimidines thus affecting the cycling of autoimmune cells. It has an extensive development program in all phases of relapsing disease, including its role and potential as an add-on therapy to first line treatments such as interferon- β or GA. It has recently completed phase III testing in the TEMSO trial. Results of this study will be presented, showing that there are 2 effective doses of teriflunomide (7 and 14 mg) that reduce relapse rates by ~31%, MRI activity by up to 80% and slow disease progression by up to 30% relative to placebo. It has also been shown in phase II studies to reduce MRI activity by over 80% when combined with interferon- β or GA in patients who have not necessarily been showing breakthrough. It has a long and very well characterized history of safety. Overall this agent has a great potential of being the first safe and effective first line therapy for relapsing MS and even for combination with other first line therapies.