Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of scheduled antibody testing on treatment patterns in interferon-treated patients with multiple sclerosis

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Reviewer: Konstantin Balashov

Reviewer's report:

The authors report a very interesting link between access to Ab test results and IFN therapy management in MS. More than 1300 patients were well-randomized and enrolled in two study arms. Patients in two arms had similar age, gender, initial antibody status. The similar numbers of "early terminations" were reported (106 vs. 114).

Major Compulsory Revision:
Someone may note that different modified ITT criteria were introduced for patients in different groups. As a result, more patients were excluded from analysis in the "usual care" arm (n=95) compared to the "Ab testing" arm (n=33) (Figure 1). Would final results change if analysis is done using the identical criteria for two groups (e.g., all patients not lost to follow up)? This is an important question that needs to be addressed.

Discretionary Revision:
Did "Ab testing" patients have more frequent evaluations by their neurologists compared to "usual care" patients? Could more frequent visits (time spent with a patient) also impact treatment change initiated by a physician? This issue can be raised in the Discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received honoraria for consulting activities from Biogen, Genzyme, Bayer, TEVA, Serono in the last 5 years.

My research activity has been funded in parts by research grants from Biogen, Bayer, TEVA in the last 5 years.