MEDICATION USE AND REASONS FOR SWITCHING BIOLOGIC THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH NON-RADIOGRAPHIC AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS: FINDINGS FROM A GLOBAL SURVEY

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BACKGROUND

- Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA) is a subtype of the axSpA spectrum along with ankylosing spondylitis.
- Nr-axSpA is a potentially severe disease with diverse manifestations, usually requiring multidisciplinary management coordinated by the rheumatologist.[1]
- The primary goal of treating the patient with nr-axSpA is to maximize long-term health-related quality of life through control of symptoms and inflammation, prevention of progressive structural damage, preservation/normalization of function and social participation.[1]

[1]Van der Heijde D, et al. Annals of Rheumatic Diseases. 2017;0:1–14.

OBJECTIVE

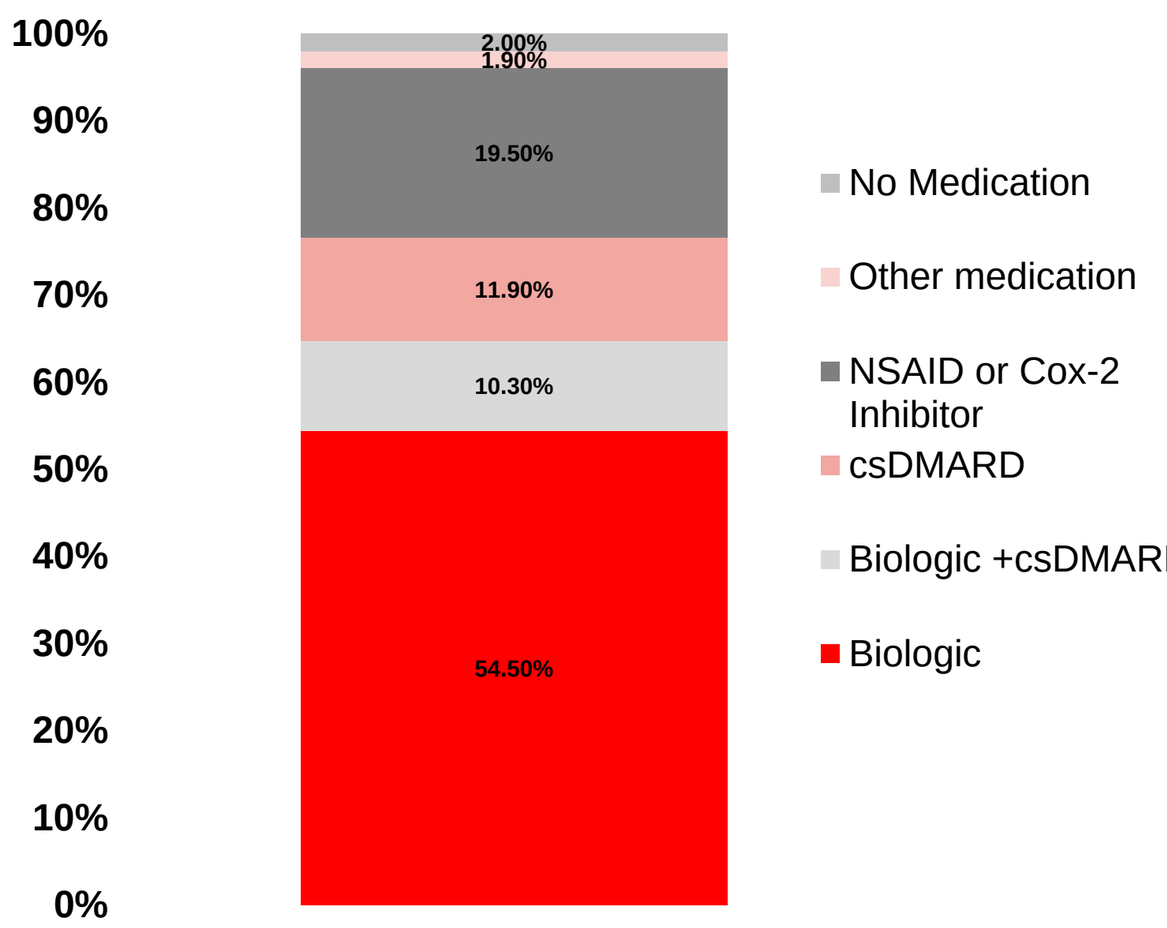
- 1) Describe medication use among nr-axSpA patients
- 2) For nr-axSpA patients on a biologic, identify the reason(s) for switching

METHODS

- Data from a cross-sectional survey conducted in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States were analyzed.
- Physicians completed record forms containing information on current medication use and reasons for switching biologics.
- Data from 432 physicians (407 rheumatologists, 13 orthopedists, 12 internists) and 2,099 nr-axSpA patients were included in this analysis.

RESULTS

Figure 1. Medication Use among Nr-axSpA Patients



CONCLUSIONS

- This study provides real-world evidence on the medication use and the reasons nr-axSpA patients switch biologic therapy.
- Around two-thirds of nr-axSpA patients were receiving biologic therapy.
- Switching of biologics is frequent in nr-axSpA patients and is usually due to lack of efficacy, loss or response, and effort to accomplish remission.

Table 1. Demographic Information

	Nr-axSpA Patients N=2,009
Age, mean (sd)	42.7 (13.7)
Gender	
Male	1,146 (54.6%)
Female	953 (45.4%)
BMI, mean (sd)	25.8 (6.8)
Smoking Status	
Current smoker	367 (19.3%)
Ex-smoker	442 (23.3%)
Never smoked	1,092 (57.4%)
Employment status	
Working full time	1,223 (60.0%)
Working part time	227 (11.1%)
Current Disease Severity*	
Mild	1,453 (69.2%)
Moderate	590 (28.1%)
Severe	56 (2.7%)
Remission*	988 (50.7%)

* Physician reported

Figure 2. Line of Biologic Therapy among Nr-axSpA Patients

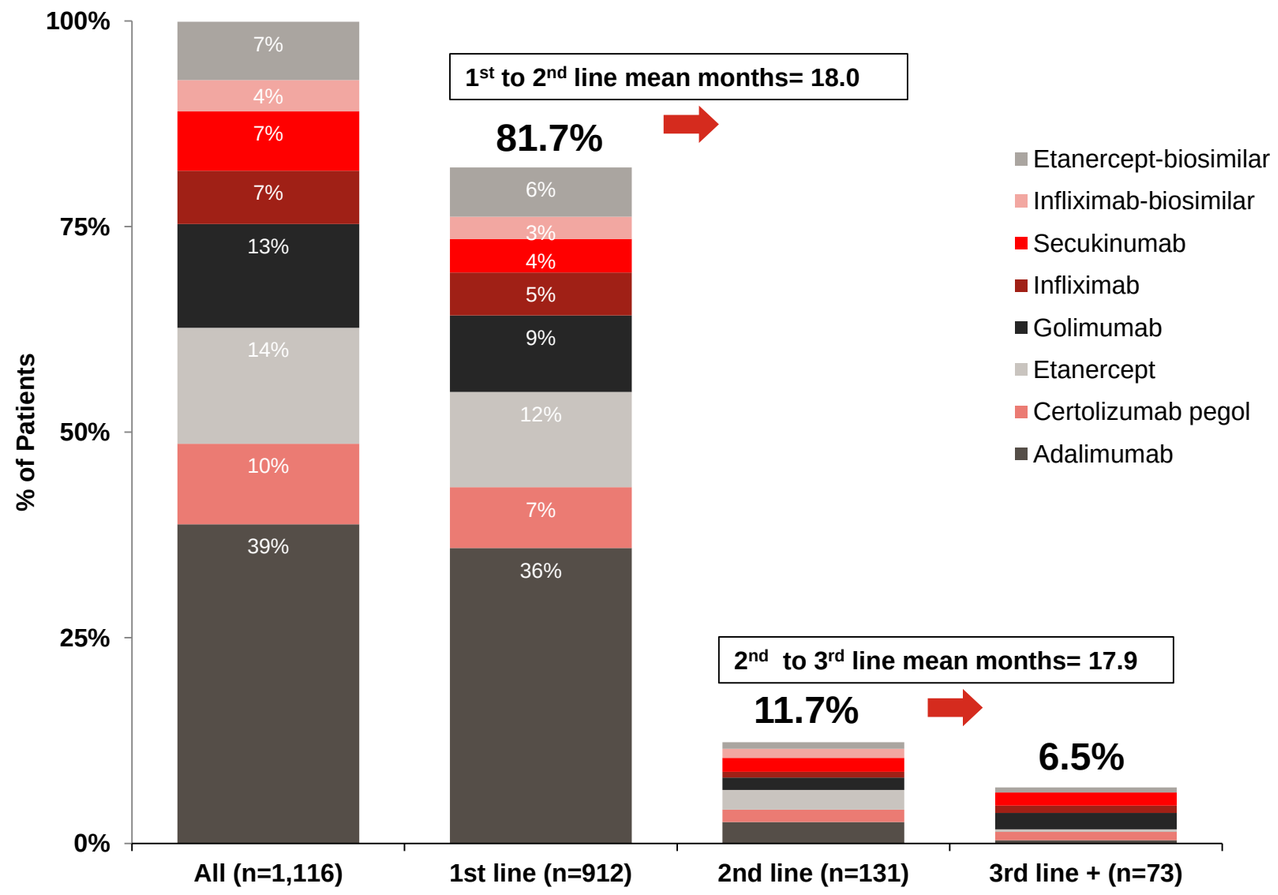


Figure 3. Top 10 Reasons that nr-axSpA Patients Switched to a Different Biologic