

# What is the new normal for the treatment of multiple sclerosis in the age of COVID-19?

# Disclaimer

- *Unapproved products or unapproved uses of approved products may be discussed by the faculty; these situations may reflect the approval status in one or more jurisdictions*
- *The presenting faculty have been advised by touchIME® to ensure that they disclose any such references made to unlabelled or unapproved use*
- *No endorsement by touchIME® of any unapproved products or unapproved uses is either made or implied by mention of these products or uses in touchIME® activities*
- *touchIME® accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions*

# Expert panel



**Prof. Aaron Miller (Chair)**

Medical Director, Corinne Goldsmith Dickinson Center for Multiple Sclerosis; Professor of Neurology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA



**Dr Céline Louapre**

Associate Professor in Neurology, Sorbonne University, Paris, France



**Dr Wallace Brownlee**

Consultant Neurologist, Queen Square Multiple Sclerosis Centre; Honorary Associate Professor, UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK



# Agenda

**What are the clinical characteristics and outcomes in patients with COVID-19 and MS?**

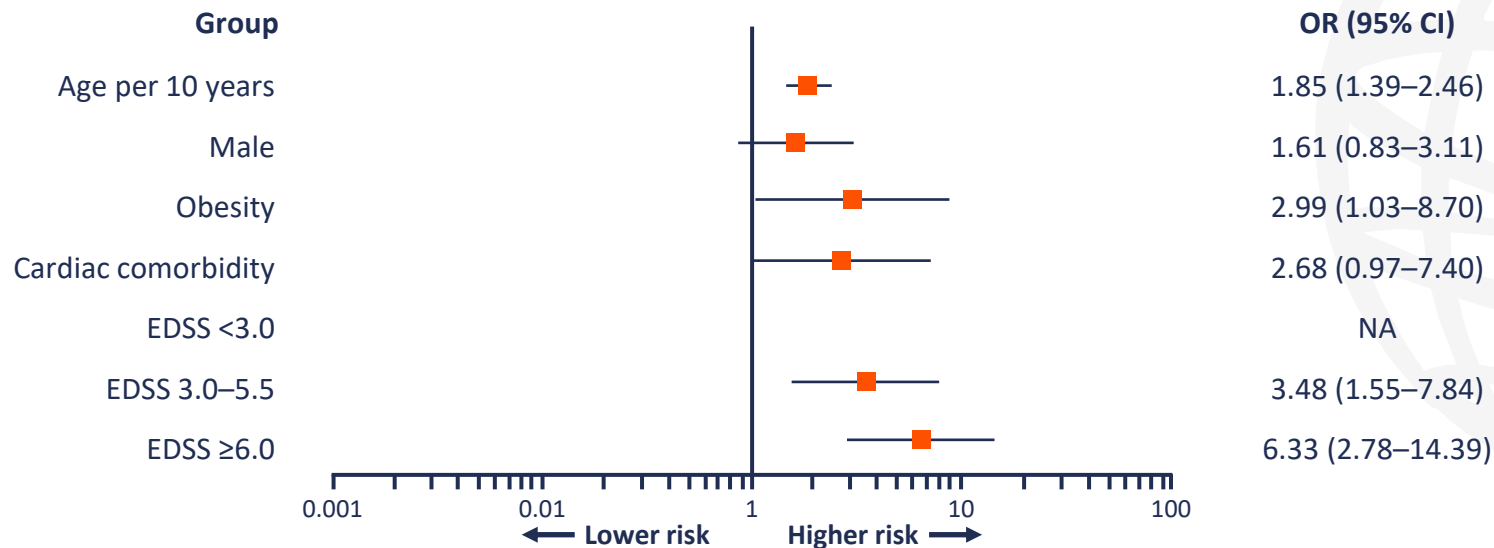
**How can we optimize use of DMTs in patients with MS during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**How has the availability of telemedicine impacted the management of MS?**

# Age, obesity and MS disease severity are associated with poor outcomes for COVID-19 infection

French Covisep registry cohort (n=347)

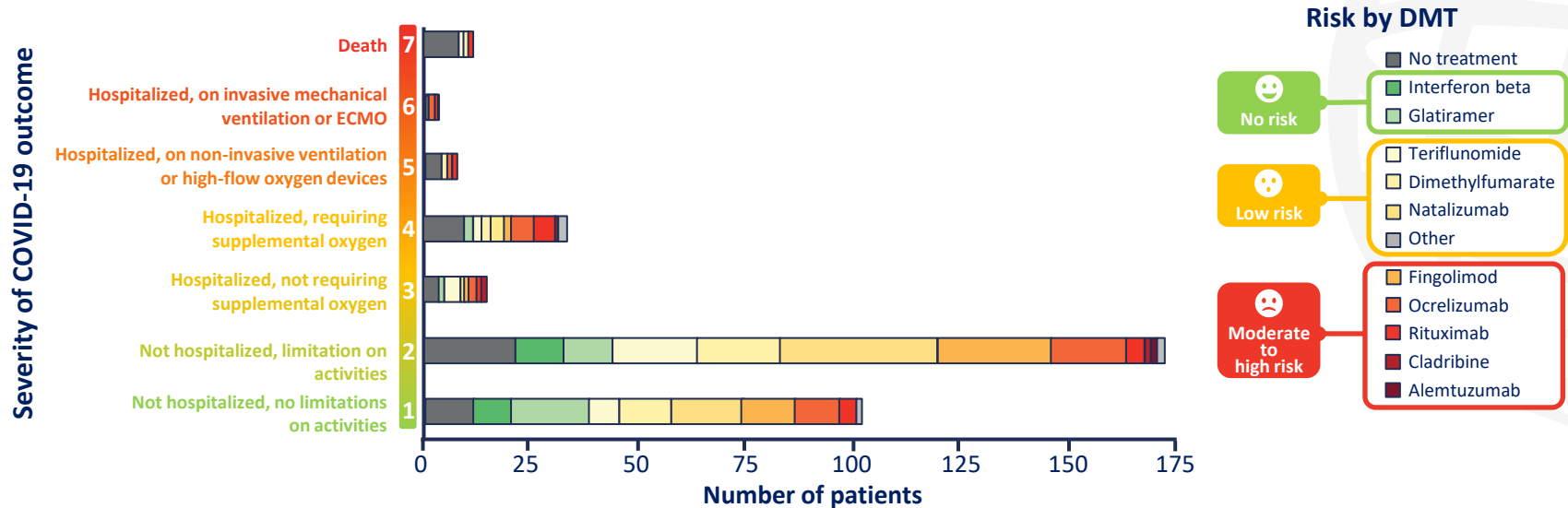
Multivariate analysis of risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection



CI, confidence interval; EDSS, Expanded Disability Severity Scale; MS, multiple sclerosis; NA, not applicable; OR, odds ratio.  
Figure reproduced with permission from Louapre C, et al. *JAMA Neurol.* 2020;77:1079–88.

# Outcomes from COVID-19 infection were not associated with predicted risk due to DMT use

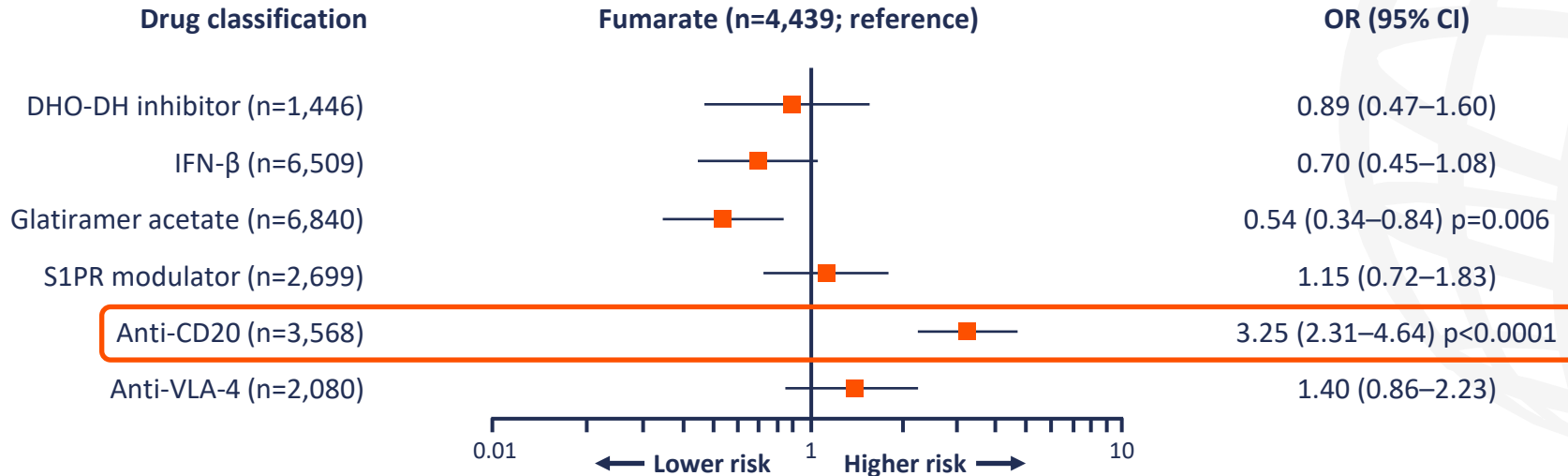
French Covisep registry cohort (n=347)  
Observed outcomes from COVID-19 infection vs DMTs stratified according to potential risk



DMT, disease-modifying therapy; ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation.  
Figure reproduced with permission from Louapre C, et al. *JAMA Neurol.* 2020;77:1079–88.

# Risk of COVID-19 infection is higher for pwMS on CD20-depleting DMTs

US PwMS with an open DMT prescription (n=30,478)  
Risk for COVID-19 infection stratified by MoA of DMT



CI, confidence interval; DHO-DH, dihydro-orotate dehydrogenase; DMT, disease-modifying therapy; IFN- $\beta$ , interferon  $\beta$ ; MoA, mechanism of action; OR, odds ratio; pwMS, people with multiple sclerosis; S1PR, sphingosine-1-phosphate receptor; VLA-4, very late antigen-4.  
Figure reproduced with permission from Reder AT, et al. *CNS Drugs*. 2021;35:317–30.

# MSIF provides continually updated evidence-based advice to support people with MS globally

## What's covered?

- ✓ General advice for people with MS
- ✓ Advice regarding DMTs for MS
- ✓ Advice regarding relapses
  
- ✓ Advice on COVID-19 vaccines and MS
- ✓ Vaccination advice for young people
- ✓ Recommendations for timing of COVID-19 vaccinations and DMTs

## Key recommendations



- Some MS medications might increase the likelihood of developing complications from COVID-19
  - This risk needs to be balanced with the risks of stopping or delaying treatment
  
- People with MS should be vaccinated against COVID-19



# Pre-consultation recommendations for patients to support safe and effective teleconsultation

## Connectivity



Test all equipment and charge all batteries prior to the meeting

## Environment



Make sure the space is private, well-lit and quiet

## Preparation



List the top 1–3 concerns or other issues for discussion beforehand

## Safety



Provide the HCP with emergency contact details

HCP, healthcare provider.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Tips for successful telemedicine.

Available at: [www.nationalmssociety.org/Treating-MS/Comprehensive-Care/Make-the-Most-of-Your-Doctor-Visits/Tips-for-Successful-Telemedicine](https://www.nationalmssociety.org/Treating-MS/Comprehensive-Care/Make-the-Most-of-Your-Doctor-Visits/Tips-for-Successful-Telemedicine) (accessed 24 June 2021).