

# Satisfaction and practicality of the branded glatiramer acetate pen in RRMS patients - COP-APPLY Study

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## Background

For some injectable relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) drugs, various administration devices are available, providing patients with more choice. This is true for branded glatiramer acetate (GA; 40 mg/mL), which is available as a pre-filled syringe (PFS; with or without an auto-injector (GA-device)), and recently, as a single-use pre-filled pen (PFP). Patient preferences for drug devices may impact drug selection and treatment adherence.

## Objective

This study evaluated practicality and patient satisfaction of the GA-PFP for patients with RRMS who either used the 40 mg/mL pen for the first time or switched from an alternative GA device (GA PFS, with or without auto-injector).

## Methods

In this cross-sectional, multicentre, open-label, observational Phase IV study, patients with RRMS rated their self-administered pen use experiences via self-reporting questionnaires 3 months after their first use. Patients satisfaction was measured using a 0-10 visual analogue scale (VAS; 0: not satisfied... 10: completely satisfied).

The primary endpoint assessed the overall percentage of patients who were satisfied with the pen (defined as VAS  $\geq$  6).

Secondary endpoints were ease-of-use of the pen (measured on a four-point Likert scale) and identification of the three most favourable device functions from a list of twelve options.

## Results

80 patients with RRMS were enrolled; median age 41.8 years; 70% female; mean duration of RRMS 6.8 years; mean number of pre-treatments 0.4. Overall, 84% (67/80) of patients were satisfied with the pen. 95% (77/80) reported it as being 'very easy' or 'easy' to use. The three most favorable device functions were: easy to start injection, no injection button, pen sits comfortably in hand when starting'.

### Application satisfaction questionnaire

Please choose one of the four answers for the ease of use of the Pen:  
Answer:  very difficult  difficult  easy  very easy

Please rate your satisfaction of the Copaxone Pen for your MS therapy from zero (not satisfied) to ten (completely satisfied):  
 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

Please rate the answers on a scale from zero (fully disagree) to ten (fully agree):

- Few steps to prepare the pen for injection is useful  
 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10
- The hidden needle gives increased comfort  
 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10
- It's useful to start the injection without an injection button  
 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10
- It is easy to start the injection  
 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

Fig. 1: Extract of the Questionnaire

### Ease-of-use



Fig. 2: Satisfaction ease of use

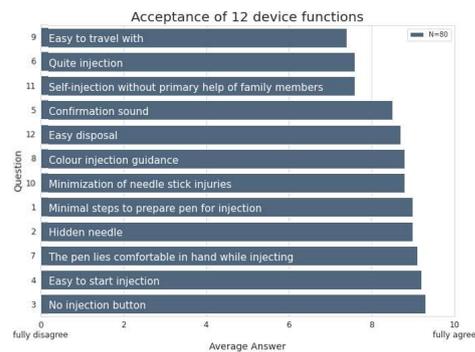


Fig. 3: Rating of device functions

## Conclusion

In this study patients reported high levels of satisfaction with the pen and majority of them found the pen very easy or easy-to-use. Since treatment satisfaction is known to significantly impact patient adherence and persistence to medication (Barbosa 2012), these findings may translate into improved treatment outcomes.

## References

Barbosa CD, et al. Patient Prefer Adherence 2012;6:39–48

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