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**Rebound Phenomena After Fingolimod Cessation**

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Objective: To define the period where the risk of having rebound after stopping fingolimod become significantly high.

Background: Cases about rebound after fingolimod suspension are limited. 10 cases (80% F) of rebound after fingolimod cessation were reported in the literature between 2012 and 2015. The mean age was 33.5 years. The rebound phenomena occurred as early as 5 weeks and up to 16 weeks after fingolimod interruption.

Design & Method: We retrospectively reviewed all multiple sclerosis (MS) patients charts in our center. All patients who were treated with fingolimod and who discontinued the treatment for any reason were identified. Data about relapses including its timing, severity and nature were extracted from their medical charts.

Result: 146 patients were treated with fingolimod. 19 patients stopped fingolimod for different reasons. 3 out of 19 patients (15.8%) experienced severe relapses after discontinuing fingolimod therapy. The mean age of these patients was 32.6years. The disease duration ranged from 1 to 8 years. The duration of fingolimod treatment was 10 – 18 months. The period from fingolimod suspension to the occurrence of the rebound ranged from 4 weeks to 13 weeks.

Conclusion: Rebound phenomena can occur after cessation of fingolimod in MS patients. Since, the period to the occurrence of the rebound ranged between 4-13 weeks, the wash-out period before starting an alternative disease modifying drug should be carefully selected.