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Demographics and Baseline Disease Characteristics of Patients With Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis From Kenya Participating in the CHIMES Trial

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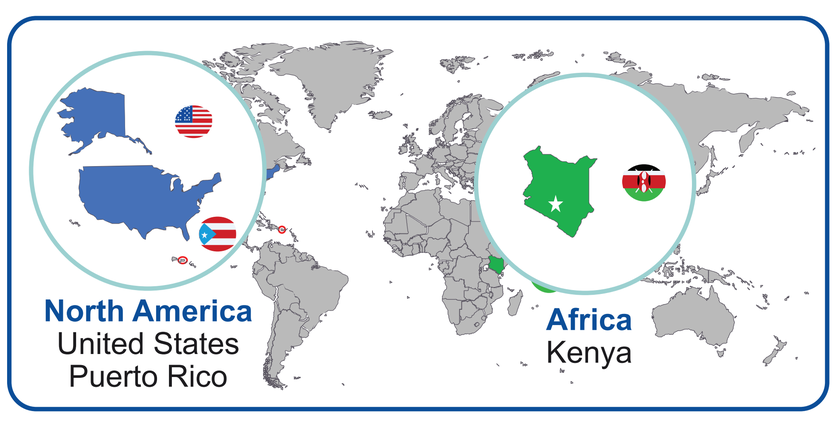
BACKGROUND

There is a paucity of epidemiological studies on multiple sclerosis (MS) in Black people from Africa, and this ethnic population is historically underrepresented in MS[1]

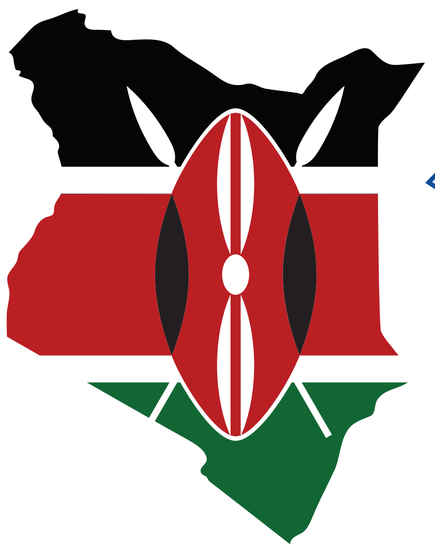
The CHIMES trial (NCT04377555) is an ongoing, open-label, single-arm, Phase IV clinical study that is investigating the efficacy and safety of ocrelizumab (OCR) in Black and Hispanic patients with relapsing MS (RMS)

OCR, currently approved in North America for RMS and primary progressive MS and pending government approval in Kenya, is a humanised monoclonal antibody that selectively targets $CD20^+$ B cells and reduces the rates of disease activity and progression[2,3,4]

Self-identified Black and Hispanic patients aged 18 to 65 years with RMS and an Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score of ≤5.5 were recruited at all study sites



The CHIMES trial is a North American trial with one site in Kenya

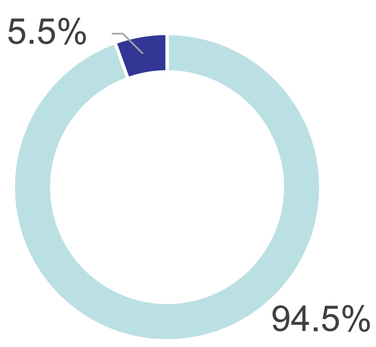


To promote inclusive recruitment in Kenya:

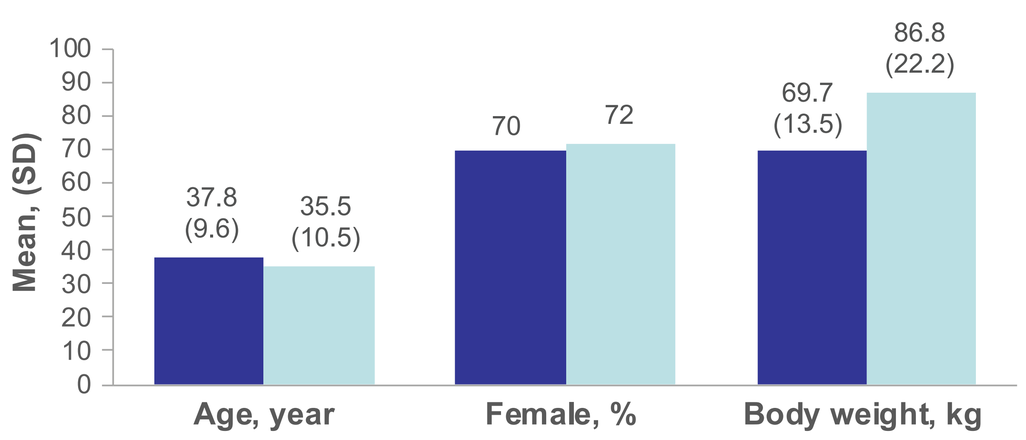
- Study-related patient materials were available in English and Kiswahili
- Flexible scheduling options were based on specific needs of the catchment area to also recruit from rural areas and comply with local healthcare ecosystems

KEY FINDINGS

Of 182 enrolled patients, 10 are in Kenya and all self-identify as Black



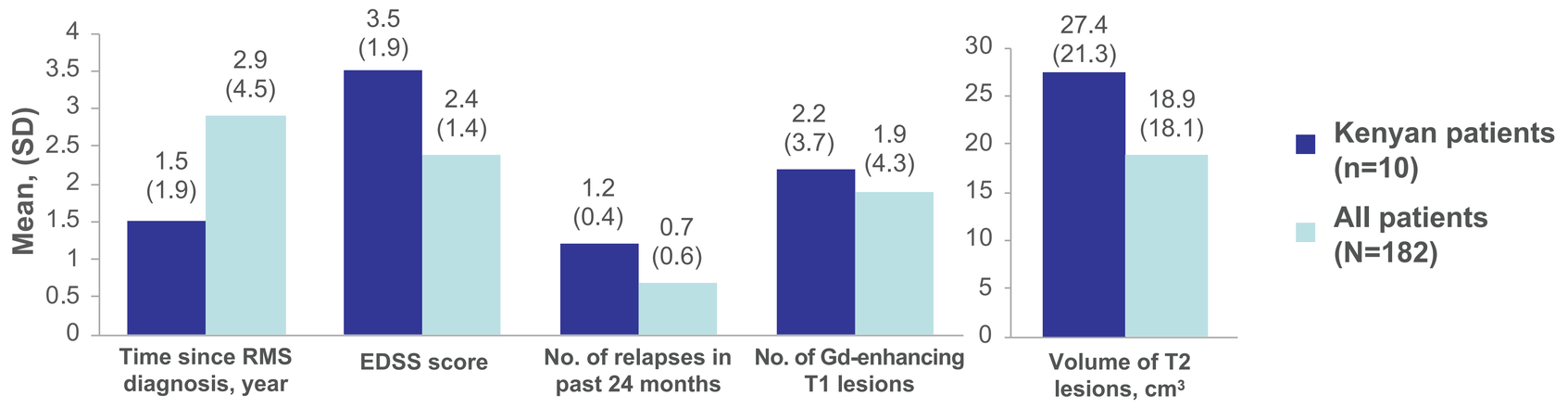
Baseline Patient Demographics[a]



Kenyan patients were observed to have a lower mean body weight than the total population

[a]No statistical comparisons were made due to the small sample size.

Baseline Disease Demographics[a]



- Kenyan patients were observed to have a shorter time since diagnosis and higher disease disability and burden than the total population
- Mean time since first MS symptoms, time since onset of last MS relapse before enrolment and normalised brain and thalamic volume were observed to be similar between both groups

Gd, gadolinium. [a]No statistical comparisons were made due to the small sample size.

CONCLUSIONS

- **CHIMES is the first Phase IV clinical trial to prospectively assess patients with RMS from sub-Saharan Africa**
- **Differences observed in demographic and disease characteristics between patients with RMS enrolled in the Kenyan and North American sites highlight the importance of enrolling more diverse populations in RMS trials and conducting more demographic-specific studies**

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DISCLOSURES

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