RESULTS: Laboratory drug therapy and those who were not.

mined and compared in those patients receiving immunomodu-

2035 patients attended the clinic of whom 1819 were diagnosed

utilization of these drugs under the provincial program.

Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit (DMSRU), meet predefined

OBJECTIVE: Immunomodulatory drugs have provided hope to

receiving therapy to those who are not.

compare patient outcomes and health care costs in those patients

ant receiving 12 prescriptions/year. Further work is ongoing to

in 1998 to $4.96 million in 2001). Most patients were compli-

Expenditures grew rapidly for the program (from $0.83 million

Rebif® accounting for $1.6 million (CDN).

total expenditure for MS drugs was $4.96 million in 2001/2 with

patients with MS. The Nova Scotia provincial health ministry

funds these drugs for patients who are seen by the Dalhousie

Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit (DMSRU), meet predefined

criteria and attend an education clinic. This study examined the

utilization of these drugs under the provincial program.

METHODS: Data from the DMSRU and pharmacy dispensing

records was accessed from July 1, 1998 to September 16, 2003.

2035 patients attended the clinic of whom 1819 were diagnosed

with MS. Patient and drug therapy characteristics were deter-

mined and compared in those patients receiving immunomodu-

latory drug therapy and those who were not. RESULTS: A total

of 433 patients (326 F) received immunomodulatory drug

therapy. Fifty-nine percent of patients were between 35 and 49

years of age and 56% were classified as relapsing remitting MS.

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