

Patient's perspective of subcutaneous Ocrelizumab at Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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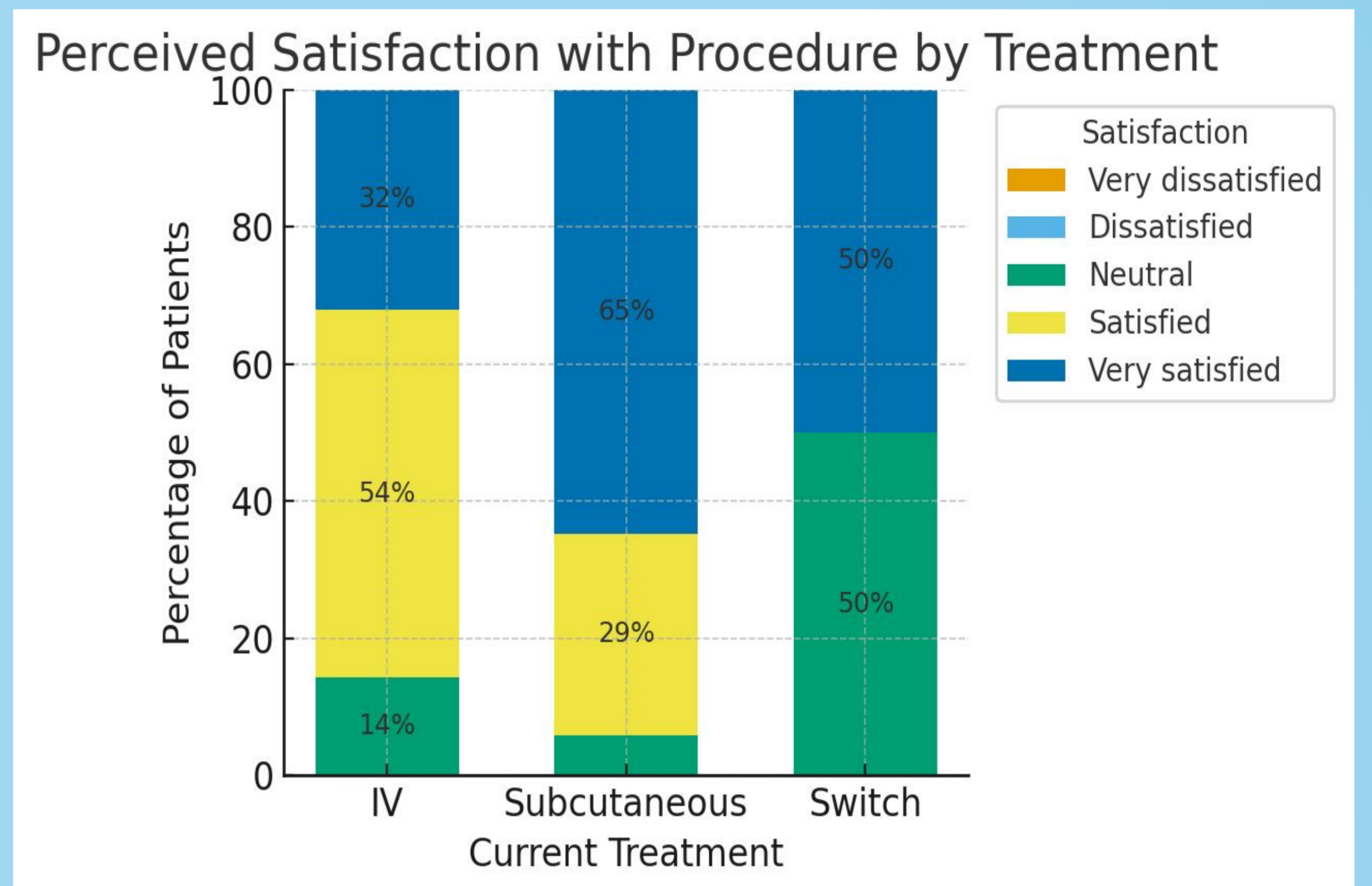
Background

Ocrelizumab (Ocrevus) is a monoclonal antibody for multiple sclerosis (MS) traditionally administered via intravenous (IV) infusion. A newer subcutaneous (SC) formulation offers a faster, less resource-intensive alternative, delivered in about ten minutes twice yearly and potentially at home. This aligns with the NHS 10-Year Plan to expand home-based care and reduce hospital burden, safe travel cost and time of travel. Our infusion service has limited capacity, so we conducted a survey to explore patient satisfaction with current delivery and identify barriers to switching to SC administration.



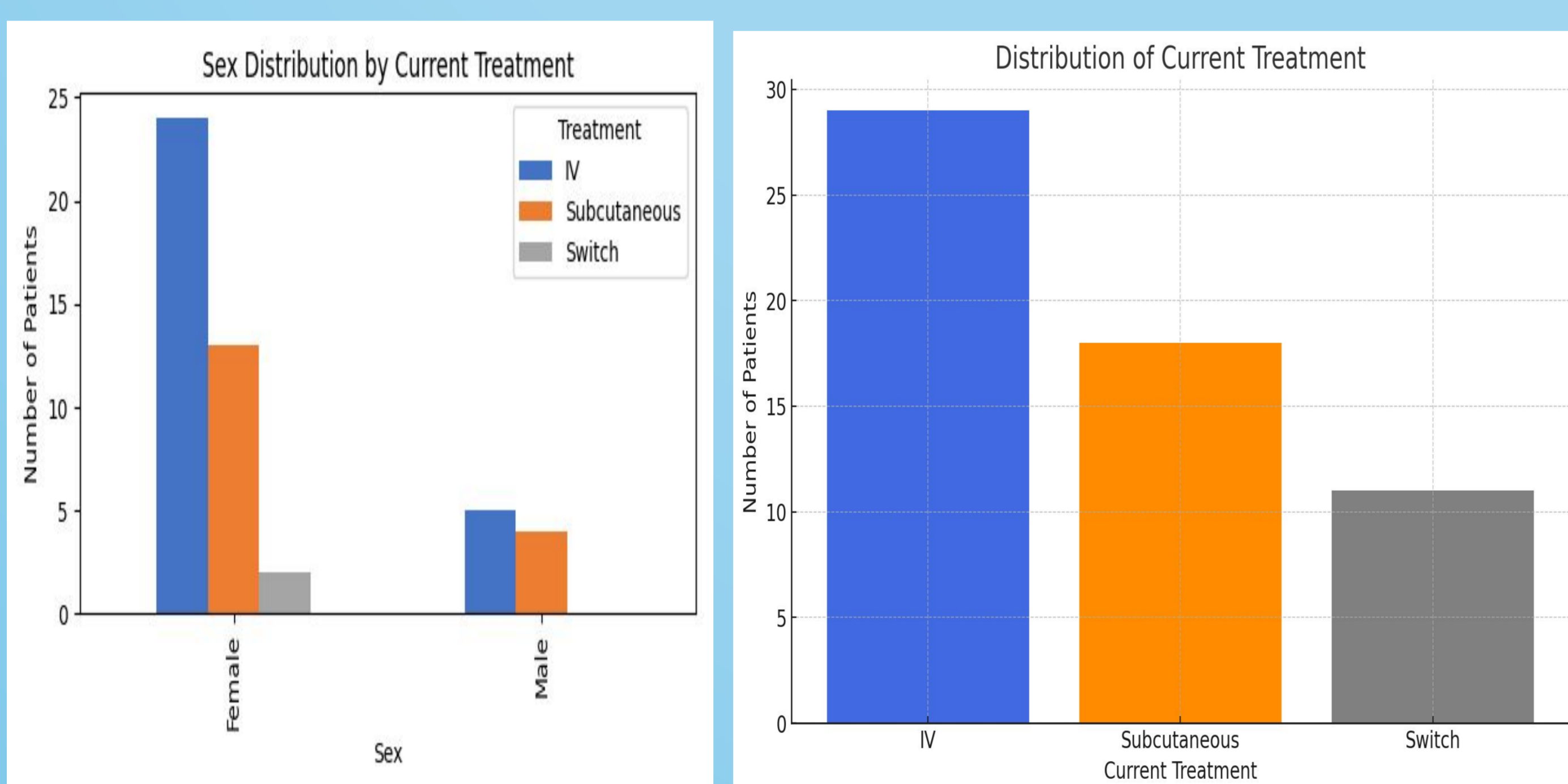
Results

Satisfaction was high across both groups: 41 participants would recommend their treatment method, and none expressed dissatisfaction. Twenty-one were “very satisfied,” 20 “satisfied,” six “neutral” and 2 “didn’t comment “. Among switchers, key reasons included time savings (6 responses), easier administration (5), and clinician recommendation or limited choice (4).



Methods

A local survey in 2025 gathered responses from 49 patients receiving ocrelizumab. Most participants were female (40/49) and under 50 years old (40/49). Twenty-nine were on IV infusions, while 20 received SC injections, including 11 who had switched from IV.



Free-text responses revealed that reluctance to switch and most concerns about side effects, pain, or loss of social interaction during infusion visits. Common comments included “pain or bruising,” “anxiety about side effects,” and “I enjoy meeting other MS patients.” A few patients preferred to remain on IV therapy due to perceived superior efficacy or familiarity, though several expressed openness to SC therapy in the future.

Conclusion

This small survey demonstrates strong satisfaction with both IV and SC ocrelizumab delivery. Transition to home-based SC administration appears feasible but requires patient education to address concerns about injection discomfort, safety, and emotional adjustment to self-administration.

References

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- Adult neurology ICB dashboard for Multiple Sclerosis.

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