

# Fingolimod (Gileyna, FTY720): Innovative treatment for multiple sclerosis

Sir,

We read the article by Sharma S, *et al.* "Fingolimod (FTY720): First approved oral therapy for multiple sclerosis."<sup>[1]</sup> It is an innovative treatment for multiple sclerosis developed by Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Switzerland. It is available as once daily oral formulation (capsule form) by the brand name Gileyna. We would like to comment on few points in the article:

The authors have mentioned in the article that Fingolimod sequesters lymphocytes in lymphnodes away from CNS; they have not mentioned their functional ability afterward. It has been found that lymphocytes remain functional and may still be activated within lymphnodes as a part of the immune system.<sup>[2]</sup>

The authors have mentioned that in the FREEDOMS trial, 1272 patients with relapsing–remitting MS were taken, but it has been found that 2000 patients were taken for the study.<sup>[3]</sup> The authors have mentioned that two deaths were seen during the TRANSFORMS study, both of which were in the group receiving Fingolimod. But it is unclear whether the drug was responsible for the events.<sup>[4]</sup>

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## REFERENCES

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4. Available from: <http://www.mscc.co.uk/index.cfm/fuseaction/show/pageid/1309> [Last accessed on 2011Mar].

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