Supplementary materials.

Investigating the long-term effect of pregnancy on the course of multiple sclerosis using causal inference.

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eTable 1. Adjusted variables in the pregnancy, relapse EDSS, and censoring models used for causal inference.

	Model at time <i>t</i>					
Adjusted variables	Pregnancy	Relapse	EDSS	Censoring		
EDSS history ^a	Х		Х	Х		
EDSS at time $t-1$	Χþ		Χþ	Х		
EDSS at time t				Х		
Relapse history ^a	Χc	Х	Х	Х		
Relapse at time $t-1$	Х	х	Х	Х		
Relapse at time t			Х	Х		
Pregnancy history ^a	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Pregnancy at time $t-1$	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Pregnancy at time t		Х	Х	Х		
MS phenotype at time t	Х	Х	Χď	Х		
Age at baseline	Хp	Хp	Х	Х		
Time from MS onset to baseline	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Number of children at baseline	X	Х	Х	Х		

EDSS: Expanded Disease Status Scale; MS: multiple sclerosis

 $^{^{\}rm a}$ History: all past values of the variable from baseline to time t-2

^b Cubic spline with two knots

^c Cumulative history (sum of all the past values of the variable)

^d With additional interaction term with EDSS at time t-1

eTable 2. Comparison of excluded and included patients

	Included patients n = 9,100	Excluded patients n = 8,463	
Age at baseline (years), mean (SD)	33.60 (6.86)	34.98 (6.64)	
Calendar year at baseline, median [Q1; Q3	2009 [2004; 2013]	2005 [2000; 2010]	
Disease duration at baseline (years), mean (SD)	4.67 (5.21)	5.43 (5.65)	
EDSS at baseline, mean (SD)	1.81 (1.73)	2.08 (2.02)	
Number of children at baseline, median [Q1; Q3	1 [0; 2]	0 [0; 0]	
MS phenotype at baseline, n (%)			
RR	8171 (89.8%)	7285 (86.1%)	
SP	574 (6.3%)	773 (9.1%)	
PP	355 (3.9%)	405 (4.8%)	

eTable 3. Results of the sensitivity analyses

	Number of patients	Number of patient- years	Number of preg- nancies	Long term effect ^a	Per-partum effect ^a	Post-partum effect ^a	Delayed effect ^a
Mean EDSS b	<u> </u>						
Main analysis	9,100	73,707	2,597	0.00 [-0.16; 0.15] p=0.98	-0.06 [-0.12; -0.01] p=0.03	-0.06 [-0.14; 0.01] p=0.10	-0.03 [-0.18; 0.12] p=0.69
1) MS onset as baseline	2,095	16,846	1,043	0.18 [-0.10; 0.46] p=0.15	-0.24 [-0.70; 0.27] p=0.19	-0.42 [-1.33; 0.19] p=0.14	-0.06 [-0.82; 0.75] p=0.97
2a) First EDSS retained	9,100	73,707	2,597	0.06 [-0.06; 0.20] p=0.35	-0.08 [-0.14; -0.01] p=0.04	-0.06 [-0.13; 0.02] p=0.20	0.08 [-0.05; 0.21] p=0.17
2b) Last EDSS retained	9,100	73,707	2,597	0.10 [-0.02; 0.21] p=0.11	-0.11 [-0.17; -0.06] p<0.001	-0.04 [-0.13; 0.02] p=0.25	0.05 [-0.08; 0.18] p=0.50
Censoring at first missing EDSS	9,100	39,576	1,142	-0.17 [-0.61; 0.25] p=0.42	-0.16 [-0.22; -0.08] p<0.001	-0.14 [-0.25; -0.04] p=0.02	0.00 [-0.38; 0.30] p=0.80
Only the first pregnancy considered	9,100	73,707	2,125	0.08 [-0.04; 0.21] p=0.13	-0.12 [-0.16; -0.07] p<0.001	-0.11 [-0.18; -0.05] p<0.001	0.00 [-0.11; 0.13] p=0.84
Annual probability	of relapse) ^C					
Main analysis	9,100	73,707	2,597	0.95 [0.93; 1.38] p=0.50	0.80 [0.72; 0.89] p<0.001	1.34 [1.20; 1.48] p<0.001	1.10 [0.94; 1.45] p=0.21
1) MS onset as baseline	2,095	16,846	1,043	0.95 [0.79; 1.88] p=0.71	0.77 [0.43; 1.65] p=0.21	1.27 [0.64; 2.94] p=0.32	0.92 [0.29; 2.45] p=0.96
2a) First EDSS retained	9,100	73,707	2,597	0.95 [0.88; 1.37] p=0.64	0.77 [0.68; 0.85] p<0.001	1.34 [1.22; 1.48] p<0.001	1.10 [0.86; 1.45] p=0.42
2b) Last EDSS retained	9,100	73,707	2,597	0.95 [0.90; 1.4] p=0.58	0.77 [0.69; 0.85] p<0.001	1.33 [1.22; 1.46] p<0.001	1.10 [0.86; 1.42] p=0.43
 Censoring at first missing EDSS 	9,100	39,576	1,142	1.00 [0.69; 1.48] p=0.56	0.76 [0.65; 0.88] p<0.001	1.37 [1.18; 1.64] p<0.001	1.04 [0.64; 1.56] p=0.97
Only the first pregnancy considered	9,100	73,707	2,125	0.94 [0.86; 1.48] p=0.70	0.77 [0.68; 0.84] p<0.001	1.32 [1.17; 1.46] p<0.001	1.09 [0.86; 1.42] p=0.48

^a Causal mean difference [95% CI for the mean EDSS, and causal risk ratio [95% CI for the annual probability of relapse

^b In the last one-year period of the considered period for the long-term and delayed effects, or in the per-partum or post-partum year for the short-term effects

^c Over the whole considered period