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Real-World Findings of Usability and Usefulness of MS Progression Discussion Tool– a Physician-Completed Digital Tool to Evaluate Early Signs of Disease Progression

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Abstract Text:

Background:

MSProDiscuss[TM] is a validated physician-completed tool based on a set of weighted questions that include information on multiple sclerosis (MS) relapses, symptoms and impacts experienced by the patient within the past 6 months. The tool's traffic light system-linked output is meant as an aid for discussing the signs of MS disease progression. The tool is available online at www.msprodiscuss.com.

Objectives:

To report physician findings on usability and usefulness testing of the MSProDiscuss tool while discussing disease progression with patients in the real-world setting.

Methods:

An online qualitative survey was undertaken in 34 countries. Healthcare practitioners (HCPs), who completed individual questionnaires (*i*) after using MSProDiscuss during face-to-face patient consultations and a final questionnaire (*f*) to capture the overall experience on the tool. The HCPs also provided general feedback and recommendations for improving the tool.

Results:

In total, 301 HCPs (including 23 MS Nurses and 6 Neurology nurse practitioners) tested the tool in 6974 MS patients. The time taken to complete MSProDiscuss during a regular consultation was 1–4 minutes in 97% (*i*) to 98% (*f*) of the time. In 94% (*i*) to 97% (*f*) cases, HCPs agreed that patients were able to comprehend the questions from the tool. HCPs were willing to use the tool again in the same patient 91% (*i*) of the time. MSProDiscuss was useful in discussing MS symptoms and its impact on daily activities (88% *i* / 92% *f*) and cognitive function (79% both *i* and *f*) and in discussing progression in general (88% *i* / 90% *f*). While completing the final questionnaire, 95% of HCPs agreed that the questions were similar to those asked in regular consultation. MSProDiscuss was also found helpful for *understanding* the impact of MS symptoms on daily activities (91%) and cognitive function (80%). Overall, 92% of the HCPs would recommend MSProDiscuss to a colleague. Regarding integration of MSProDiscuss into their clinical practice, 92% of HCP think that it is feasible and 86% are willing to integrate. Key recommendations were to allow for longitudinal follow-up, expand on cognitive assessments, and provide a patient-completed version; these are considered in the updated version of MSProDiscuss.

Conclusions:

The findings from this real-world study suggest that MSProDiscuss is a usable and useful tool to facilitate physician-patient discussion on disease progression in daily clinical practice by capturing structured disease history.

Title:
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Category:
Methods of Care

Would you give CMSC and International Journal of MS Care the first preference to any article that is submitted for publication based on this abstract presentation?:
No

Late Breaking Reason:

Data was not available prior to regular submission

Comments to organizers:

No

Category: Methods of Care

Keywords:
Comprehensive care and MS and Symptoms of disease progression

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