

## Journey of MS Patients in Turkey; a questionnaire based survey – Burden of MS

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**OBJECTIVE:** Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurodegenerative disease that is one of the most significant causes of disability in young adults. Our aim is to demonstrate the burden of MS in terms of both workload loss and disease impact on patients

**Method:** The online survey was conducted from November 11, 2022, to December 16, 2022, and a total of 2176 MS patients participated.

### Results:

Almost 40% of MS patients reported that they did not know their specific type of MS

60% of the patients reported experiencing work-related issues due to MS. 40% of the patients reported having difficulty keeping up with their jobs or having to quit their job.

When comparing the different treatment groups, it was found that the rate of job-related problems in patients receiving SC treatment was statistically lower than those receiving IV and oral treatments. Patients receiving IV treatments had a higher likelihood of experiencing distress and quitting their jobs.

When considering the issues caused by MS disease, the most prevalent problem reported was "feeling tiredness," with 22% of patients indicating this issue. Following fatigue, the second most common concern was the "uncertainty of the future" with 17%, and "loss of quality of life" with 14%. Only 3% of the patients reported not experiencing any problems due to MS disease

### Conclusion :

Unemployment is a prevalent issue among individuals with MS and is linked to a considerable socioeconomic burden. The likely explanation for the lower incidence of job problems in patients receiving injectable treatments compared to those receiving other treatments is that these patients are likely in the early stages of MS, and the reimbursement policies in their country may support this. The physical symptoms reported of patients could potentially hinder their ability to maintain employment. Therefore,

strategies and actions to support MS patients in continuing to work should be developed and implemented.