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MSProDiscuss™ is a useful tool to aid discussion of multiple sclerosis disease progression: Results from a large, real-world qualitative survey

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Authors: T. Ziemssen1, G. Giovannoni2, E. Alvarez3, V. Bhan4, C. Hersh5, O. Hoffmann6, C. Oreja-Guevara7, R. Robles-Cedeño8, M. Trojano9, P. Vermersch10, P. Dobay11, M. Khwaja12, B. Stadler12, T. Hach12, D. Piani-Meier12, J. Burton13, 1Department of Neurology, University Clinic Carl-Gustav Carus/Dresden/Germany, 2Blizard Institute, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London/London/United Kingdom, 3University of Colorado School of Medicine/Aurora, CO/United States of America, 4University of British Columbia/Vancouver, BC/Canada, 5Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health/Las Vegas, NV/United States of America, 6Alexianer St. Josef Potsdam GmbH/Potsdam/Germany, 7Multiple Sclerosis Center at the University Hospital San Carlos/Madrid/Spain, 8Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Unit/Girona/Spain, 9University of Bari/Bari/Italy, 10Univ. Lille, Inserm U1172, CHU Lille, FHU Imminent/Lille/France, 11Real World Evidence Solutions, IQVIA Technology and Services/Basel/Switzerland, 12Novartis Pharma AG/Basel/Switzerland, 13Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders, Western Australian Neuroscience Research Institute, The University of Western Australia/Perth/Australia

Background

MSProDiscuss™ is a validated, physician-completed tool aimed at facilitating physician–patient conversation on signs of progression in multiple sclerosis (MS). A set of weighted questions on relapses, symptoms and their impacts as experienced by the patient generate a traffic light system output to aid the discussion. The tool is available online at www.msprodiscuss.com.

Objectives

Evaluate the usability and usefulness of MSProDiscuss in discussing disease progression in daily clinical practice.

Methods

An online qualitative survey consisting of individual questionnaires completed by healthcare professionals (HCPs) after using MSProDiscuss in patient consultations and a final questionnaire to capture overall experience on the tool was conducted in 34 countries. General feedback and recommendations for improving the tool were also collected.

Results

In total, 301 HCPs participated in the survey. The HCPs first completed individual questionnaires after using MSProDiscuss on 6974 MS patients and then a final questionnaire. In 97% (initial questionnaire, \( i \)) and 98% (final questionnaire, \( f \)) of the time MSProDiscuss was used, the time taken to complete the tool was considered satisfactory (1-4min). The questions were found to be comprehensible in 94% (\( i \)) to 97% (\( f \)) of cases, and HCPs are willing to use the tool again in the same patient 91% (\( i \)) of the time. MSProDiscuss was also useful in discussing MS symptoms and its impact on daily activities (88% / 92% \( i \) and \( f \)) and cognitive function (79% both \( i \) and \( f \)) and in discussing progression in general (88% / 90% \( i \)).

Moreover, in the final questionnaire, 95% agreed that the questions were similar to those asked by a HCP in a regular consultation. MSProDiscuss was also found to be 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; 92% think that it is feasible and 86% are willing to integrate MSProDiscuss into their clinical practice. Key recommendations were to allow for longitudinal follow-up, expand on cognitive assessments, and provide a patient-completed version. These have been considered for implementation in the updated version of MSProDiscuss.

Conclusions

The survey results established MSProDiscuss as useful and easy to use tool to facilitate patient-physician discussion of MS progression by structured capturing of patient clinical profile. Most HCPs were willing to integrate MSProDiscuss into their daily clinical practice.