The Many Factors Affecting MS Treatment Satisfaction

The State of MS is an international survey focused on understanding the multiple sclerosis (MS) experience of patients and neurologists. The survey found that patients’ satisfaction with their current treatment was influenced by many factors, identifying opportunities for improvement.

MS patients are split when it comes to satisfaction with their current disease-modifying therapy (DMT)

Among MS patients who are currently taking a DMT:

- 58% are satisfied/very satisfied with current DMT
- 42% are somewhat/not at all satisfied with current DMT

Multiple factors influence patients’ reported treatment satisfaction including their treatment expectations and degree of collaboration with their physicians.

Expectation-Setting

Patients satisfied with their DMT are more likely to say their treatment closely met expectations

- Of patients satisfied/very satisfied with their DMT, 67% (2 in 3) say their DMT met expectations (closely or very closely)
- Of patients somewhat/not at all satisfied with their DMT, 44% (2 in 5) say their DMT met expectations (closely or very closely)

Patient/Physician Collaboration

Patients’ reported DMT satisfaction may be tied to treatment plan input and open communication with their neurologist

- Patients who report being equally or more involved in the DMT decision making process are twice as likely to say they are very satisfied with their DMT (29% vs. 14% for whom HCP is reported as the sole/primary decision-maker)
- 92% of neurologists recognize that patients who provide input in the treatment decision-making process are more satisfied with the treatment experience

Open communication

- 64% of patients who report being satisfied/very satisfied with their DMT are very comfortable speaking to neurologists about their MS
- 43% of patients who report being somewhat/not at all satisfied with their DMT are very comfortable speaking to neurologists about their MS

Understanding of Patient Needs

Patients consider a variety of factors when making treatment decisions

Most important factors in PATIENTS’ DMT choice:
- Safety: 51%
- Side effects: 51%
- Long-term effects: 46%
- Impact on daily life: 46%
- Slowing disability progression: 46%

Most important factors in NEUROLOGISTS’ DMT choice:
- Reducing number of relapses: 73%
- Slowing disability progression: 73%
- Safety: 69%
- Side effects: 67%
- Reducing severity of relapses: 65%

The ongoing State of MS initiative continues to provide patients and neurologists new insights that may allow them to better communicate regarding their MS.

The survey was conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of Biogen among 982 adults diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and 900 neurologists who treat MS patients within Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States between March 18 and April 25, 2014.