Improving the evaluation of therapeutic interventions in multiple sclerosis: development of a patient-based measure of outcome


Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To develop a patient-based, disease-specific measure of the health impact of multiple sclerosis (MS) that is clinically useful, and scientifically sound, and suitable for use as an outcome measure in clinical trials and in routine clinical practice.

Authors' conclusions
The 29-item MSIS-29 is a rigorous new measure of the physical and psychological impact of MS. All psychometric criteria were satisfied and there is preliminary evidence of responsiveness. The MSIS-29 is particularly appropriate for use in clinical trials to evaluate therapeutic effectiveness from the patients perspective.

A limitation of the study is that the MS Society membership database was used to define the sampling frame; the percentage of people in the database with a neurologist-confirmed diagnosis of clinically definite MS, the disease type of those with MS and the representativeness of people who join charitable groups are unknown.

Critical evaluations of the MSIS-29 completed by people with neurologist-confirmed MS in different settings will identify its strengths and weaknesses, and further define its role in clinical practice and research. Head-to-head comparisons of the psychometric properties of the MSIS-29 and other outcome measures for MS will help to determine the relative advantages of different instruments so that the choice of measures for studies can be evidence based.

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