Criteria to determine disability related to multiple sclerosis

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
Our first major objective was to identify, review, and evaluate the medical literature on five major topics: reliability of MS diagnostic criteria; predictors of physical and mental impairments; effect of treatment and symptom management therapies; association of clinical findings with work ability; and impact of environmental factors on work capacity. Our second objective was to describe information needed to address any data insufficiencies, if any, in these five areas.

Authors' conclusions
McDonald criteria appear to have substantial evidence for validity and inter-rater reliability in diagnosing MS; clinical data are poor at predicting 1-year clinical outcomes. Treatments do not result in improvements in impairments, but symptomatic treatments can result in improvements in functional status. Further research is required to understand the associations between clinical data and work status or work ability.

Project page URL
http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/msdistp.htm

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Multiple Sclerosis /diagnosis /therapy

Language Published
English

Country of organisation
United States

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AccessionNumber
32004000660

Date bibliographic record published
05/08/2004

Date abstract record published