

**(W08) THE AIMS (ASSESSING NEEDS IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS) PROJECT – ASSESSING RISK FACTORS FOR POOR CONCORDANCE**

**Introduction:** Concordance with medication is increasingly being highlighted as an important aspect of treatment. The WHO has noted that “Increasing the effectiveness of adherence interventions may have a far greater impact on the health of the population than any improvement in specific medical treatments.” Patients with MS may need to take injectable therapy long-term. Physical, psychosocial and cognitive issues can influence their ability to do so. Concordance and measures which improve concordance are therefore important.

**Objective:** The objective of this study is to gain an understanding of patient compliance with Rebif (interferon 1a) therapy. Through collection of information from new and existing patients who are prescribed Rebif, we hope to identify risk categories for poor concordance that can be addressed through targeted interventions.

**Method:** We have currently received written consent from 1155 patients across 55 centres and recruitment is ongoing. Data from these patients is collected at monthly intervals through scripted questions. Base data is provided for all patients such as their gender, age and time on therapy. New patients are asked about the quantity and quality of information received prior to treatment and their motivation and expectations prior to treatment. Existing patients are asked about their feelings about the treatment and why they might find taking treatment difficult. If patients stop treatment, the reasons for stopping are also clarified.

**Results/ discussion:** The numbers of patients who have provided sufficient data is currently too small to derive conclusive answers but questions we will be looking at include: Do patients who are well informed take their treatment for longer and with less problems? Where do these patients receive their information from? At what stage are patients most likely to stop and why? The results of this study may then be used to develop appropriate interventions to improve concordance.

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