

**(P03) IMPROVING THE RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

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We surveyed 3384 patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) to assess the prevalence, recognition, and management of mental health problems in such patients. We assessed MS course, disability, functional status, mental health problems, mental health visits, mental health providers seen, and treatment received. We also asked respondents who received mental health treatment (n = 1118) about their care experiences using the Experience of Care and Health Outcome Survey (ECHO). About 60% of respondents had mental health problems, and 14% of those individuals had serious problems. Only 56% of those with serious problems received any mental health treatment. Having less education, having less health insurance coverage, being married, and being employed were related to a lower likelihood of receiving mental health services. Most respondents who received mental health services had positive experiences for many aspects of care. However, fewer than half of the respondents said they were given enough information about mental health treatment options. Respondents with better mental health status, those with better health insurance coverage, and those who received their mental health care from a mental health professional reported better mental health care. Better strategies are needed for delivering effective mental health care to persons with MS.

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