United Kingdom and Germany

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INTRODUCTION

- Impairments in physical and other domains lead to high rates of unemployment in MS

- The rate of unemployment for those with MS varies by age and country[1]

- Variability in unemployment rates across countries may reflect different health systems, level of support and social policies regarding employment accommodations

OBJECTIVES

- To compare employment rates among people with MS living in three countries associated with different health systems

METHODS

- Working age participants (18-62 years) in the following 3 registries were included.
  - North American Research Committee on Multiple Sclerosis (NARCOMS) Registry
  - UK MS Register (UK-MS)
  - German MS Register (GMSR)

- A minimum data set was developed for data captured across the registries.

- Data harmonization for the following factors and employment outcomes was conducted:
  - Demographics (age, gender)
  - Disability status was categorized as mild, moderate or severe using the PDDS[2], MSIS[3], EDSS[4], respectively

- Employment Outcomes
  - Employed vs not working
  - Full-time or part-time
  - MS being the reason for reducing or stopping work

- Differences in employment were summarized overall, by demographics and disability status for each registry, and compared using chi square tests

RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of Participants by Registry

	NARCOMS (n=5436)	UK-MS (n=10529)	GMSR (n=15046)
Female, n (%n)	4514 (83.0)	7830 (74.4)	10809 (71.8)
Age, mean (SD)	52.5 (7.9)	50 (9.7)	44 (10.5)
Disability Status, n (%n)			
Mild	2459 (45.5)	1495 (14.7)	10483 (69.7)
Moderate	1432 (26.5)	4651 (45.8)	3821 (25.4)
Severe	1517 (28.1)	4000 (39.4)	740 (4.9)

Table 2. Employment Rates, Overall and Stratified (%)

	NARCOMS (n=5436)	UK-MS (n=10529)	GMSR (n=15046)
Overall	42.7	48.1	66.8
Male	40.7	48.0	71.8
Female	43.1	48.2	64.9
Age			
18-20	100.0	100.0	92.5
21-30	70.5	60.3	86.2
31-40	64.8	68.5	75.2
41-50	54.8	57.5	66.5
51-60	38.3	42.0	54.2
61-62	23.7	28.0	41.7
Disability Status			
Mild	65.3	80.3	79.3
Moderate	33.5	56.4	41.9
Severe	14.8	28.0	18.4

- Overall employment rates were statistically significantly higher for GMSR compared to the UK-MS and NARCOMS (p<0.001)

CONCLUSION

❖ Employment rates of participants varied across countries

❖ GMSR had higher rates of employment overall, and stratified by gender and age

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

msfp
ms forschungs- und projektentwicklungs-gGmbH

MS* REGISTER

NARCOMS
North American Research Committee on Multiple Sclerosis

Please see ECTRIMS Program for full list of disclosures.