

MRI in MS survey – insights into access, understanding and interest by people with MS



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Disclosures

LC, EV, AD, DS and WV are employees of icometrix

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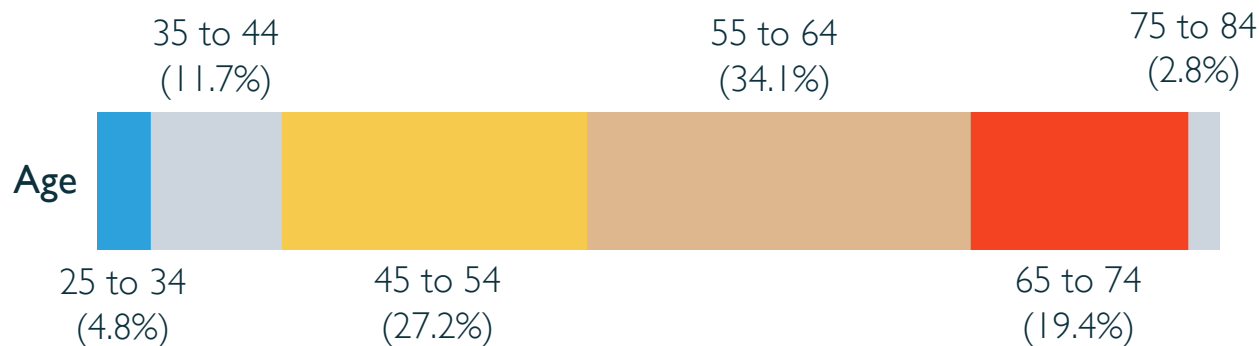
Introduction

- MRI scans have become the main tool to monitor disease progression and treatment effect in MS
- While studies showed more than 2/3 of patients aim to play an active role in their disease management [1] some strong MRI-related knowledge gaps have been reported [2]
- In order to help MS patients to be more active in their disease management, **more studies need to investigate the MRI-related knowledge, attitudes, information needs and experiences of MS patients**

Methodology



- We launched a worldwide survey which was answered by **876** people with MS (PwMS), predominantly located in the **US** and **Canada** (91.4%)
 - 80.0% Female
 - Age:

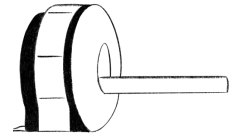


- Survey consisted of questions concerning **MRI access, viewing, knowledge and information needs**

* We did not include answers such as 'Not Sure / Prefer not to say' into the analyses

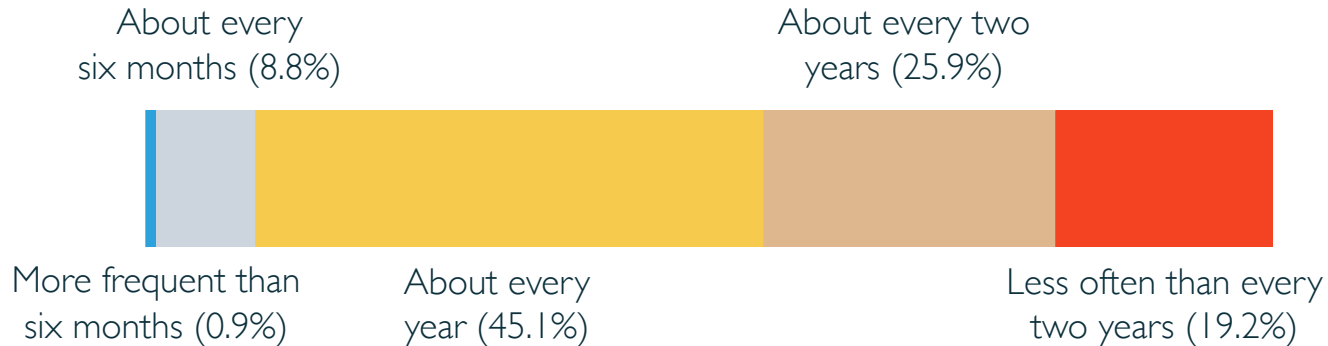
* One subject aged under 24 participated in the survey

Results – MR scan frequency



- Only 0.6% ($n = 5$) of PwMS have never had an MRI performed for the purpose of diagnosing or treating.
- Only 54.9% ($n = 474$) undergo an MRI scan every year or more frequently

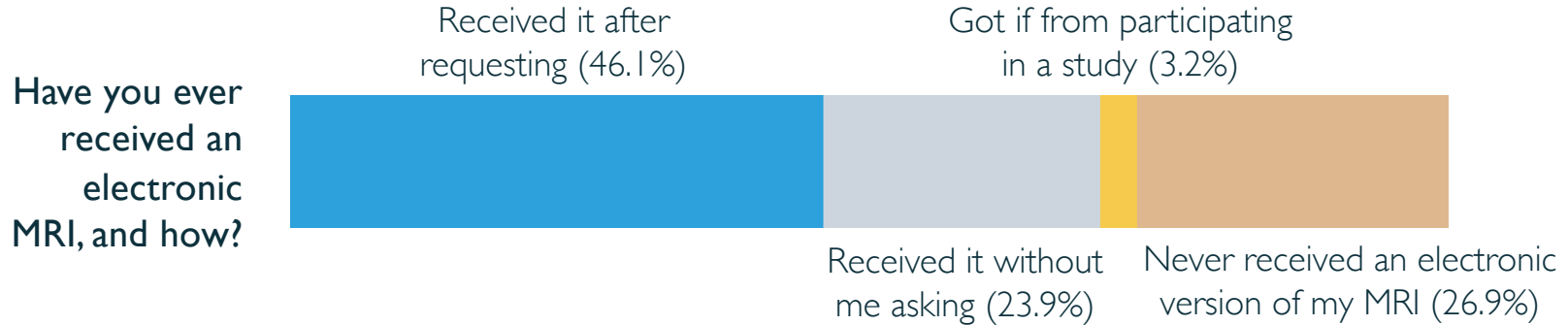
How often do you get an MRI for your MS, on average?



Results – MR image access



- Almost 27% (26.9%, $n = 228$) of patients have never received an electronic version of their MRI from their clinic or radiology lab



- Of those patients that received an electronic version of their MRI, 79.9% ($n = 560$) got it on a CD-Disk, 15.6% ($n = 109$) through their clinic's patient portal, 4.0% ($n = 28$) through a direct download into their computer or other device and 0.6% ($n = 4$) on a USB-drive

Results – MR image viewing and knowledge



- Of PwMS that received an electronic version of their MRI
 - 70.5% ($n = 431$) looked at their MR images on their own
 - Of those people, only 13.3% ($n = 57$) claimed to completely understand their MR images:

How well did you understand the images in your MRI?

Not at all (9.1%)

Somewhat (54.1%)



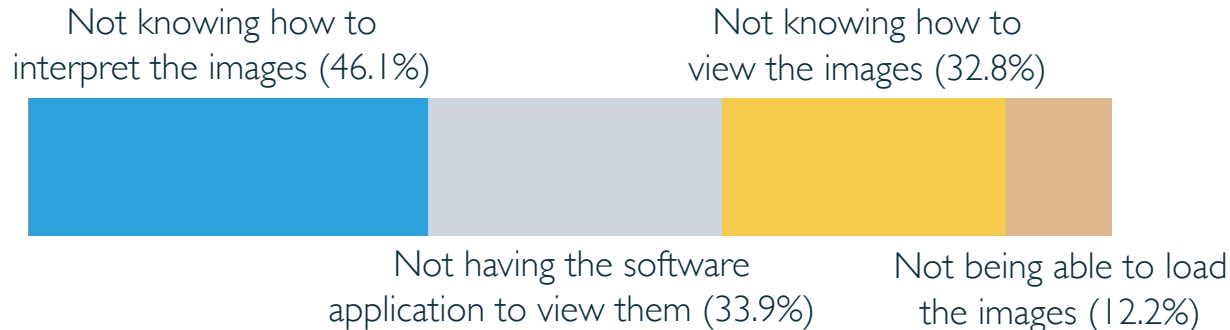
Not very much (23.5%)

Completely (13.3%)

Results – MR image viewing



- 70.2% (n = 99) of the PwMS that have access to an electronic MRI but have not looked at it on their own, would like to do so
- Reasons for not viewing the electronic MR images on their own were (n=225):



Results – information needs



- 98.2% (n = 836) of PwMS are interested in knowing about changes between their MRIs
- 94.7% (n = 767) of PwMS wanted to know if their MRI scan was performed according to clinical MS guidelines
- 96.6% (n = 714) of PwMS would be willing to share their MRIs with researchers

Conclusion

- Only a small proportion of PwMS reported complete understanding of MR images, illustrating the importance of MRI education
- In order to support PwMS to look at their MRI scans on their own, education plays a crucial role but clear instructions and easy access are also important
- Almost all PwMS expressed interest in knowing whether a scan was performed according to guidelines, and whether any changes were present compared to their previous MRI scan

