Global MS Consumer Survey

Birgit Bauer - Germany

Journalist – Social Media Expert - Speaker
MS Patient since 2005
One of the most influential Blogger about MS & Healthcare in Germany
Blogger at Living Like You
Eupati Fellow 2015
Overview of the survey

The numbers

- **575** people living with MS
- **6,433** members of the general population
- **7 countries:** Germany, Spain, France, Italy, UK, Australia and Canada

The survey aimed to:

- Gain insights into the true impact of MS on a person living with the condition.
- Explore the level of understanding about MS amongst the general population and people with MS (e.g. perception versus reality).

Survey carried out May-June, 2015 and supported by Novartis
People with MS identified fatigue as the symptom that affects them most

- 52% Loss of balance/coordination
- 50% Pain
- 38% Cognitive symptoms, i.e. memory loss and difficulties concentrating
- 63% Fatigue
- 34% Walking difficulties
However, the general public were not aware of the extent to which certain symptoms affect people with MS.

- **Fatigue**: 37%
- **Cognitive symptoms**: 16%
- **Need to use a wheelchair**: 52%
Only 37% of people with MS identified brain health as one of their most worrying short-term MS health concerns.

The visible physical and cognitive symptoms short-term highlighted by people with MS are the result of an unseen deterioration in brain health, which starts early before they even notice their symptoms.
The majority of people with MS surveyed only “sometimes” discuss their health concerns with their HCP.

People with MS should **discuss their MS health concerns with their healthcare professional (HCP)** to identify the **best treatment and disease management approach** for them.

This may explain the apparent lack of knowledge around the **full impact of brain health** on the visible symptoms of MS.