Author's response to reviews

Title: Perceived needs and satisfaction with care in people with multiple sclerosis: a two-year prospective study

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Author's response to reviews:

Melissa Norton April 5, 2008
Editor-in-Chief
BMC Neurology

Dear Ms Norton,

Please find enclosed a manuscript, a paper entitled:
Perceived needs and satisfaction with care in people with multiple sclerosis: a two-year prospective study

Authors: Charlotte Ytterberg, Sverker Johansson, Kristina Gottberg, Lotta Widén Holmqvist, Lena von Koch.

This longitudinal two-year study was carried out in a sample of 219 people with multiple sclerosis, outpatients at an MS specialist clinic. Data on perceived needs and satisfaction with care were collected every six months using a questionnaire including different dimensions of care.

Despite the large proportions of individuals with mild disease severity in our sample, a considerable number of needs were identified of which many varied over time on an individual level. Also the level of satisfaction with care varied and areas with a potential for improvement were identified e.g., availability of rehabilitation services including an increase in the supply of psychosocial support/counselling; and information on social insurance/vocational rehabilitation.

Major strengths of the present study were the longitudinal design and the low dropout rate as opposed to many previous studies in which postal questionnaires have been used.

We believe our findings are of importance and of interest for health care providers in neurology.
We hope you will find the manuscript of interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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