(S73) BOWEL OBSESSION SYNDROME IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS

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**Background:** Bowel and bladder dysfunction is common in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). This symptom is rated as third in importance by patients and affects their function and quality of life. Fecal incontinence in particular can become a significant factor in the patient’s psychosocial disability, leading to bowel obsession syndrome (BOS). Bowel obsession has long been recognized in patients with gastrointestinal problems, usually presenting as an overwhelming and irrational fear of losing bowel control in public. There are no published data on BOS in patients with MS. **Objectives:** To develop an information poster outlining progression of bowel dysfunction to a more complex disability involving a psychological component, and to describe BOS in MS patients and possible interventions, including psychological treatment techniques that can be accommodated to MS patients. **Methods:** Case reviews of two patients with potential BOS. **Results:** A 62-year-old woman with primary progressive MS (PPMS) had an episode of incontinence 20 years ago; as a result, she has developed an uncontrolled fear that limits her everyday activities. A 25-year-old man has been complaining of bowel urgency after eating. He refrains from eating breakfast and lunch and eats only once a day late in the evening. **Conclusions:** Due to the prevalence of bowel dysfunction in MS patients, often with comorbid fragile psychosocial self-perception, there is a high risk of BOS in the MS patient population. Therefore, proper recognition of BOS and development of a rehabilitation process is needed in this population. Treatment of bowel obsession should be managed by a multidisciplinary team and should include a behavioral approach.

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