Annual Conference EMSP

Prevention in Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders:

Uncovering Risk and Protective Factors

 $\begin{array}{c|c} \mathsf{PRA} & \texttt{16-17 MAY} \\ \mathsf{GUE} & \texttt{2025} \end{array}$



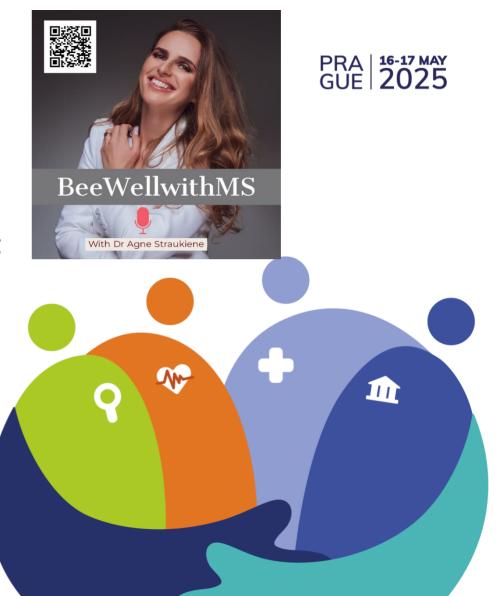


Annual Conference EMSP

Empowering MS Patients: Strengthening Self-Advocacy and Decision Making

Dr Agne Straukiene MS Neurologist UK BeewellwithMS podcaster





Your voice matters

0



Top 10 Self-Management Strategies for Living with Multiple Sclerosis or NMOSD, MOGAD

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Strategy	Lifestyle Approach	Priority Rank	Rationale
1. Fatigue Management	Energy pacing + Sleep hygiene	1	Conserves energy, prevents burnout, and sustains daily function.
2. Exercise Regularly	Stretching + Strength + Cardio	2	Preserves mobility, balance, and supports brain health.
3. Track Symptoms	Use an app or journal	3	Enables pattern recognition, supports clinical care decisions.
4. Medication Adherence	Alarms + Weekly pill organizers	4	Ensures optimal treatment effect and prevents relapses.
5. Maintain a Brain-Healthy Diet	Anti-inflammatory + Mediterranean style	5	Supports overall health, reduces inflammation.
6. Practice Stress Reduction	Meditation + Breathing + Time in nature	6	Reduces symptom flare-ups and boosts emotional resilience.
7. Stay Hydrated and Manage Bladder	Timed hydration + Pelvic floor exercises	7	Minimizes urgency and improves bladder control.
8. Plan for Bad Days	Have a flare-up plan + Backup supports	8	Reduces anxiety and increases readiness for symptom variability.
9. Engage in Meaningful Social Connection	Regular chats + Support groups	9	Prevents isolation and supports emotional wellbeing.
10. Keep Learning About MS	Podcasts, webinars, reputable websites	10	Empowers self-advocacy and informed decision-making.

Slido: Do you feel confident enough to self- manage your MS/NMOSD/MOAD?

Very confident Somehow confident Not confident at all



Top 10 Tips for Choosing the Right Lifestyle Approach

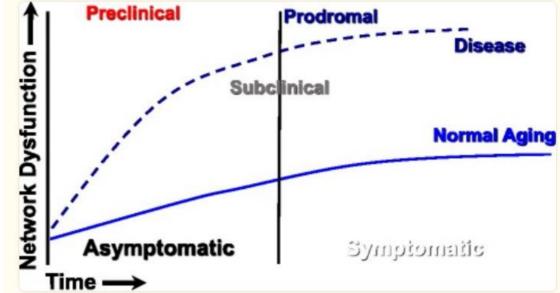


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Тір	Lifestyle Action / Question to Ask	Priority Rank	Rationale
1. Start with What Matters Most to You	Identify values: energy, independence, mood?	1	Personal relevance increases motivation and consistency.
2. Pick One Change at a Time	Focus on one habit (e.g., walking daily)	2	Prevents overwhelm and promotes sustainable progress.
3. Align with Your Current Abilities	Choose activities that match your energy and mobility	3	Reduces risk of injury or discouragement.
4. Be Flexible and Adaptable	Adjust for flare-ups, fatigue, weather, stress	4	Builds resilience and long-term success.
5. Choose Evidence-Based Strategies	Use guidance from trusted MS sources	5	Focuses effort on what's proven to help.
6. Track Your Progress	Journaling or symptom tracking	6	Helps reinforce benefits and refine your routine.
7. Set Realistic, Measurable Goals	E.g., "15 mins of stretching 3x/week"	7	Builds confidence and direction.
8. Prioritise Consistency Over Perfection	It's okay to miss a day—just restart	8	Encourages long-term adherence and kindness to self.
9. Involve Support	Join a group, coach, or tell a friend	9	Accountability and connection increase success.
10. Make It Enjoyable	Choose activities you enjoy (e.g., dancing, gardening)	10	Joy fuels commitment and reduces stress.

The Need for Digital Transformation in MS Care



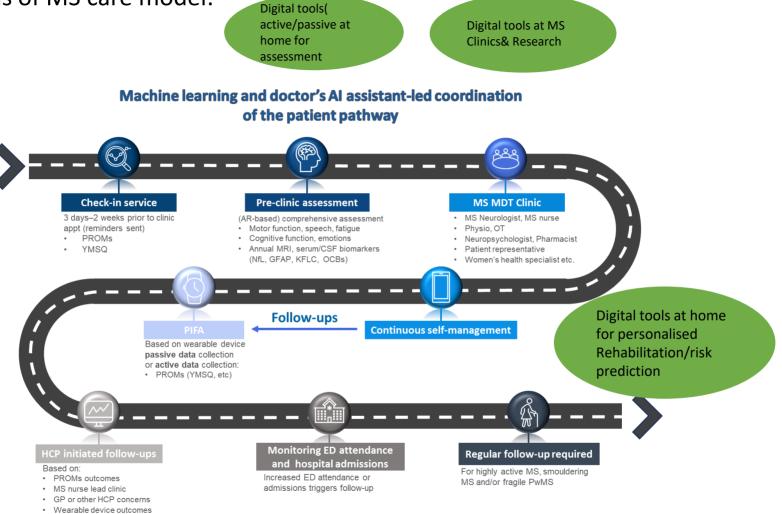




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Fiandaca MS, Mapstone M, Connors E, Jacobson M, Monuki ES, Malik S, Macciardi F, Federoff HJ. Systems healthcare: a holistic paradigm for tomorrow. BMC Syst Biol. 2017 Dec 19;11(1):142. doi: 10.1186/s12918-017-0521-2. PMID: 29258513; PMCID: PMC5738174.

Future directions of MS care model:



Straukiene A, Hughes S, Grundy J, Moxon F. Evaluating patient care in multiple sclerosis: Impact of combined digital tools and holistic management strategies. Mult Scler J Exp Transl Clin. 2025 Apr 15;11(2):20552173251317020. doi: 10.1177/20552173251317020. PMID: 40292034; PMCID: PMC12033737.

Slido: Do you use digital technology for monitoring and tracking your symptoms?

- Yes
- No



