Department of Clinical Neuroscience  
Division of Insurance Medicine

Research project

Multiple Sclerosis and Sickness Absence

We, since many years, run an interdisciplinary research project on MS and sickness absence.

There are today around 18 000 individuals in Sweden diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is the most common degenerative neurological disease among young adults and usually debuts between the age of 20 and 40; age periods when the activities in working life often are high. For many MS-patients the disease means a significant, but varied, disability involving also decreased work capacity. MS is a very heterogenic disease and affects individuals in varying degree and with vastly different patterns and progression. At current date the knowledge on MS patient’s sickness absence and which factors that affect their sickness absences is very limited.

The overall aim of the project is to, among people with MS, a) map the patterns of sickness absence and disability pension, b) identify risk factors for sickness absence and disability pension, and c) increase the knowledge on the situation when on sick leave or disability pension, to get a knowledgebase for interventions. Several different studies are ongoing in the project.

Project members

Kristina Alexanderson  Project leader, professor
Jenny Aspling  Research assistant
Katharina Fink  MD, PhD, postdoc
Emilie Friberg  Assistant project leader, PhD
Hanna Gyllensten  PhD, postdoc
Jan Hillert  Neurologist, professor
Korinna Karampampa  PhD, postdoc
Chantelle Murley  MSc, PhD student

Financial support has been received from Biogen, the Swedish Research Council on Health, Working Life and Welfare, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, and the Swedish Research Council.

Publications

PhD thesis

Wiberg M. Development of income following sickness absence from the workplace or long-term unemployment, and among individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. Karolinska Institutet, Division of Insurance Medicine 2017.
Articles in international peer reviewed scientific journals


Articles in Swedish scientific journals


Abstracts accepted for publication at scientific conferences, some of them

1. Tinghög P, Kjeldgård L, Hillert J, Alexanderson K. Sickness absence and disability pension among Multiple Sclerosis patients in Sweden. 28th Congress of the European Committee of Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS); Lyon, France, 10-13 October 2012.


12. Wiberg M, Friberg E, Palmer E, Tinghög P, Alexanderson K, Stenbeck M. Earnings among multiple sclerosis patients compared to individuals without MS, in total and for different educational levels and types of occupations - a longitudinal population-based cohort study. 31st Congress of the European Committee of Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS); Spain, 7-10 October, 2015.

13. Ernstsson O, Tinghög P, Alexanderson K, Hillert J, Burström K. Health-related quality of life in individuals with multiple sclerosis and an external validation of a method to map MSIS-29 on EQ-5D. 31st Congress of the European Committee of Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS); Barcelona, Spain, 7-10 October, 2015.


27. Karampampa K, Gyllensten H, Yang F, Murley C, Friberg E, Hillert J, Alexanderson K. Cost progression regarding healthcare, sickness absence, and disability pension among people newly diagnosed with MS: a register-based longitudinal study in Sweden estimating cost trajectories in four cohorts of incident cases over time. 34th Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS); Berlin, Germany, 10-12 October 2018.


29. Kavaliunas A, Manouchehrinia A, Gyllensten H, Alexanderson K, Hillert J. Impact of early treatment initiation on personal income of multiple sclerosis patients. 34th Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS); Berlin, Germany, 10-12 October 2018.


