

# Multiple sclerosis in Argentina: methodological and baseline data from the Argentinean MS Registry

## (RelevarEM)

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## INTRODUCTION

No ongoing nationwide registry exists in Latin America (LATAM), a region where the disease behaves differently than in other regions. The aim of this study is to describe the methodology and the baseline data behind RelevarEM the first nationwide multiple sclerosis (MS) and neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) registry in Argentina and LATAM (Clinical Trials registry number NCT03375177).

## METHODS

RelevarEM is a longitudinal, strictly observational MS and NMOSD registry in Argentina. The registry is open to all practicing neurologists, MS specialists and their teams across the country. It tracks the outcomes of routine clinical practice of patients with MS and NMOSD in a web-based platform that allows researchers to register and follow up their patients. From May 2018 to March 2019, the centers and principal investigators were contacted and incorporated into the Registry. All included patients in the registry provided an oral or signed consent form.

## CONCLUSION

this study provides updated information on epidemiological features of MS in Argentina. Patient registries gather valuable long-term patient information from the real world which are useful to a wide range of purposes (epidemiology, economic impact, healthcare access, and aspects concerning safety and effectiveness) 8,9. A wider use of MS disease registries in the region would be desirable in the near future in order to better understand the behaviour of the disease in our region.

## RESULTS

Up to 31 March 2019, 56 centers and 98 professionals distributed throughout Argentina have become part of the Registry. A total of 1588 patients were included, median age 42 ± 7 years, female sex 65.3%. 82.3% of patients were relapsing-remitting MS, 5.5 % secondary progressive MS, 4.2% primary progressive MS and 6.5% were clinically isolated syndromes. The mean EDSS of patients was 2 ± 1.5 (range 0-8), 82.4% of patients were under disease modifying treatment and 14 % were retired due to MS.

MS patients included	1,588
Mean age (years), SD	42 ± 7
Female sex, n (%)	1,037 (65.3)
MS phenotype, n (%)	
CIS	103 (6.5)
RRMS	1,308 (82.4)
SPMS	87 (5.5)
PPMS	67 (4.2)
RIS	23 (1.4)
Mean disease duration, years (SD)	8 ± 6
Patients under DMT, n (%)	1,309 (82.4)
Mean EDSS ± SD (range)	2 ± 1.5 (0-8)
Working status	
Currently working, n (%)	569 (35.8)
Retired due to the disease, n (%)	222 (14)

**Table 1: Baseline characteristics of included MS patients**

### REFERENCES

Kurtzke JF. Epidemiology and etiology of multiple sclerosis. *Phys Med Rehabil Clin N Am* 2005; 16(2): 327-49. Rojas JI, Carra A, Correale J, et al. The Argentinean multiple sclerosis registry (RelevarEM): Methodological aspects and directions. *Mult Scler Relat Disord* 2019; 32: 133-7.

	MSBase	NYSMSC	OFSEP	Danish	Swedish	British Columbia	RelevarEM
Geographic catchment	Global	New York, some Northwestern Pennsylvania	France	Denmark	Swedish	British Columbia, Canada	Argentina
No. of active participants	44,148	9,650	58,000	25,000	14,500	10,000	1,588
Enrollment dates	2004–present	1996–present	2011 (databases using the EDMUS started before)	1956-present	2001-present	1980– present	2018-present

**Table 2: Sample of major MS cohorts and registries underway**