

μ :

Κοκαρίδας Δήμητριος, Αναπληρωτής Καθηγητής, ΤΕΦΑΑ-ΠΘ

Θεοδωράκης Γιάννης, Καθηγητής, ΤΕΦΑΑ-ΠΘ

Γούδα Μάριος, Καθηγητής, ΤΕΦΑΑ-ΠΘ

, , -

μμ μ , , -

μ , , -

, , -

© 2023

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

2023

μ μ μ , μ μ μ
. μ μ μ μ μ 8 μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ . μ , μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ , μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ . ,
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ , μ ,
μ , μ , μ μ , μ ,
μ , μ , μ μ , μ ,

ABSTRACT

The effect of physical activity and nutritional advice on the quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis

(Under the supervision of Associate Professor D. Kokaridas)

Research concerning exercise of multiple sclerosis (MS) patients has examined separately the effect of exercise and nutrition on improving the level of physical activity and adoption of healthy behaviors, whereas relative research combining exercise and nutrition with self- goal setting goals by patients themselves is scarce. The overall aim of the research was a) to outline the behavior profile in relation to smoking, diet and exercise of people with MS and identify the factors involved in shaping healthy/unhealthy behaviors and b) to study the effect of a combined program of physical activity (PE), nutrition advice and smoking reduction with self-setting goals, in improving quality of life and reducing anxiety and depression in people with MS. The participants of the first research were 90 individuals without MS and 26 patients with MS, all participants coming from the wider area of Thessaly region. The results showed that the profile of people with MS is associated with a mild level of physical activity (PA), lower perceived quality of life, higher anxiety and depression as compared to healthy subjects who chose a moderate level of PA and exhibited less depression and anxiety and better perceived quality of life, while no differences between the two groups were observed in factors related to smoking habits and the intention to adopt a healthier diet in the future. The purpose of the second study was to examine the effect of a combined program of physical activity, nutrition advice and smoking reduction with self-setting goals, on improving quality of life and reducing anxiety and depression in people with MS. The sample consisted of 30 MS patients, 15 men and 15 women, aged 23 to 65 years, randomly divided into two equal groups, that is, the experiment group and the control group. The experiment group ($N= 15$) participated in an 8-week exercise program combined with self-selected goal-setting strategies and the principles of self-determination Theory, to increase their exercise participation. The control group did not participate in any intervention procedures. Post-results showed that participants of the experiment group chose moderate-intensity physical activities and increased leisure-time physical activities compared to

control group individuals along with reducing smoking and improving their nutrition habits. Furthermore, experiment group participants exhibited increased levels of physical functioning, vitality, role emotional, mental health and general mental health, with less anxiety and lower levels of depression compared to contro group individuals following the end of the intervention program.

Keywords: MS, physical activity, self-setting goals, nutrition, smoking, quality of life, depression, anxiety.

		v
Abstract		vii
	μ	ix
	μ	xii
	.	1
1.1.		3
1.2.		3
1.3.	μ	6
	.	7
2.1.		7
2.1.1.		9
2.1.2.	μ μ	9
2.1.3.		10
2.1.4.	μ μ . . .	10
2.2.		11
2.2.1.	μ	11
2.2.2.		12
2.3.		13
2.3.1.		16
2.3.2.	,	18
2.4.	μ - μ	21
2.5.	μ	23
	.	1
3.1.	μ	25
3.2.	μ	25
3.3.		26
3.3.1.	μ	26
3.3.2.	μ	26
3.3.3.	μ	<i>Baecke</i> 27
3.3.4.	μ μ	27
3.3.5.	μ μ	27
3.3.6.	μ	27

3.4.					27
	IV.	μ	1		28
4.1.					28
4.2.					28
4.3.					29
4.4.		μ			30
4.5.					30
	V.		1		32
	V .		2		36
6.1.	μ				36
6.2.	μ				36
6.3.					39
6.3.1.	μ				39
6.3.2.	μ			<i>Baecke</i>	39
6.3.3.	μ				40
6.3.4.	μ			μ	40
6.3.5.	μ			μ	40
6.3.6.	μ				40
6.4.					40
	VII.	μ	2		42
7.1.				μ	42
7.2.	μ			μ	43
7.3.	μ				45
7.4.					47
	VIII.		2		49
	IX.	μ	μ		55
					58
	μ				81
	μ 1.			μ μ	81
	μ 2.		μ		83
	μ 3.		$\mu\mu$	8 μ	84
	μ 4.	μ			85
	μ 5.	μ		SF-36	86
	μ 6.	μ		Baecke	91

μ 7.	μ	μ	93
μ 8.	μ	μ	95
μ 9.	μ		96

μ

- 1:** () μ μ .
- 2:** μ μ .
- 3:** μ μ μ .
- 4:** μ
μ μ (=90) μ (=26).
- 5:** μ μ μ μ μ
- 6:** (μ ,)
μ μ μ μ μ .
- 7:** (μ ,)
μ μ μ μ μ .
- 8.** μ μ μ μ μ
μ (μ , μ
).
- 9.** μ μ μ μ μ μ
- 10.** μ μ μ μ
- 11.** μ μ μ μ

μ μ μ μ μ
μ , μ , μ μ
(World Health Organization, 2003). μ
, μ
μ .
μ μ .
μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ (Conti et al., 2007; Hannukainen et al., 2007),
μ - (Thorsen et al., 2007),
(Heikkinen et al., 2007) μ μ
(Staffileno et al., 2007) μ (Dishman et al., 2004;
Yates et al., 2007).
(Ford & DeStefano, 1991;
Vaillant et al., 1991), μ (Goss & Grubbs, 2005). μ
μ μ (Sasco et al.,
2002; et al., 2008; & , 2005).
Theodorakis et al. (2003) μ
μ μ μ ,
, μ . μ
μ μ μ μ

μ μ μ μ
 μ / μ , μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ $\mu\mu$.
 μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ $\mu\mu$ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ

1.1.

μ μ , μ μ μ ,
 μ μ μ /
 μ μ μ $\mu\mu$
 μ , μ μ μ -
 μ , μ μ .

1.2.

μ :
 μ 1 μ
 μ .
 μ 1 μ
 μ .

2

7-

μ .

2

7-

μ .

3

μ

μ μ .

3

μ

μ μ .

4

μ ,

μ , μ μ μ ,

μ μ μ μ μ μ

4

μ ,

μ , μ μ μ ,

μ μ μ μ μ μ

5

μ

μ μ μ μ μμ .

5

μ

μ μ μ μ μμ .

6

μ μμ μ μ ,

μ

μ .

6

μ μμ μ μ ,

μ

μ .

7

μ μμ μ μ ,

μ

μ μ

7

μ μμ μ μ ,

μ

μ μ

8

μ μμ μ μ ,

8

μ μμ μ μ ,

9

μ μμ μ μ ,

9

μ μμ μ μ ,

2.1.1.

μ
 μ , μ
 μ μ (Wang et al., 2015).
 μ , μ
 , μ , . . . (Chang et al., 2002). μ , -
 μ μ
 μ (Mathews, 2001; Goverman, 2009).
 , μ , μ
 , μ μ μ
 μ μ μ (Mathews, 2001). μ
 μ μ μ
 μ μ μ .

2.1.2. μ μ

μ μ
 μ (Wens et al., 2017). μ μ
 μ μ (Dalgas et al., 2008; Miller & Dishon, 2006; Sandoval, 2013):

1.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
2.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
3.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
4.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
5.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
6.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
7.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
8.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
9.	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ

2.1.3.

μ 85% (Noseworthy et al., 2000). μ / μ : μ

1. μ / : 80% μ (Fromont et al., 2010) (Patzold & Pocklington, 1982). ½ μ 10 (Fromont et al., 2010).

2. : μ μ μ μ (Fromont et al., 2010).

3. : μ 10% (Fromont et al., 2010).

4. μ : 5% , μ μ μ (Fromont et al., 2010).

2.1.4. μ

μ μ μ μ Kurtzke (1983) «EDSS», μ μ .

1.	0. .
2.	1.0. μ , μ μ .
3.	1,5. μ , μ μ .
4.	2.0. μ .
5.	2,5. μ .
6.	3.0. μ .

7.	3,5.	μ (μ).
8.	4.0.	500μ. μ
		12 μ .
9.	4,5.	300 μ.
10.	5.0.	200 μ.
		.
11.	5,5.	100 μ.
12.	6.0.	μ 100 μ.
13.	6,5.	20 μ .
14.	7.0.	μ , μ μ
		μ μ .
15.	7,5	μ .
16.	8.0.	μ μ μ
		μ μ .
17.	8,5.	μ μ .
18.	9.0.	, μ .
19.	9.5.	μ μ .
20.	10.	.

2.2.

μ μ μ μ μ
μ
(Courtney et al., 2009; Coyle, 2010; Lucchinetti et al., 2000). μ
μ

2.2.1.

μ μ μ μ μ μ
6.000.000 (WHO, 2013).
12,3% μ , μ
20 μ
100.000.000 (WHO, 2005).

μ μ . μ μ
 μ μ . μ μ
 μ , μ , μ
 μ μ μ . μ μ
 , 38%, μ
 (Eurobarometer, 2015). ,
 μ μ (Currie et al., 2004).
 μ
 (Belbasis et al.,
 2015), μ μ .
 μ μ μ 1960
 μ 1990 μ ,
 μ (Jafari & Hintzen, 2011).
 Salzer, μ , μ
 μ μ (Salzer et al., 2013).
 μ μ Belbasis et al. (2015)
 μ , μ
 μ μ 1.7
 μ , 25 .
 1.8 μ
 μ μ (Riise et al., 2003; Salzer et al., 2013).

2.2.2.

μ μ μ
 μ μ
 (Pozuelo & Benito, 2014). μ μ
 μ μ
 μ (, 2004). μ
 μ μ D (Ascherio
 et al., 2014) (Schwarz & Leweling, 2005).
 μ μ μ μ
 μ μ

(Swank & Grimsgaard, 1988).

(, 2004).

(Ghadirian et al., 1998).
(Wingerchuk, 2011).

(Ascherio, 2013; Mirzaei et al., 2011; Munger et al., 2006, 2011).

Mirzaei
(Mirzaei et al., 2011).
Munger et al. (2011)

Ascherio (2013)

(Christensen, 1975).
(Christensen, 1975).

2.3.

(Dalgas et al., 2008; Rafeeyan et al., 2010; Kargarfard et al., 2012).

(, 2012).

(Hall - McMaster et al., 2016). Anens et al. (2014)

Kalron et al. (2019)

Dlugonski et al. (2012)

Beckerman et al. (2010)

2.3.1.

μ () (, 2007). μ
μ , μ μ
μ μ μ
μ .
μ , μ μ
μ . « μ
μ μ μ μ μ
» (United Nations, 1997). McAuley et al. (2006)
«μ μ » μ
μ μ μ . μ μ
μ μ ,
« μ μ μ
μ , μ
» (WHO, 1999). Ebrahim (1995) « μ
μ μ ,
μ ».
Coombs (1990)
μ μ « μ
μ μ ».
« μ
μ μ »
(McCall, 1975; Crisp, 2005).
μ , , ,
μ μ
μ « μ μ
- μ ,
μ , , μ » (O' Hara & Diwan,
1999).

Mark et al. (2014) μμ μμ
 μ μ μ μ
 (Dalgas et al., 2010).
 Theofilou (2013) , μ
 , μ μ μ μ
 . Samartzis et al. (2014)
 μ
 μ μ ,
 ,
 μ μ
 (Hadgkiss et al., 2015). , (2013)
 μ
 , , μ .

2.3.2.

μ μ μ μ
 . , μ μ
 μ
 (Minden, 2000). μ 50%
 , μ
 μ (Paparrigopoulos et al., 2010; Siegert &
 Abernethy, 2005). μ
 , μ , μ (Kanner & Barry,
 2003; , 2002).
 μ μ Siegert Abernethy (2005) μ μ μ
 μ
 μ
 . μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ
 μ μ .

μ . μ
 . μ μ -
 μ , μ μ μ , μ
 μ . μ μ
 μ μ μ μ
 . , μ
 , .
 μ
 (Deci & Ryan, 2000).
 - μ , μ μ
 μ μ μ μ .
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ (Guay et al., 2001; Ng et al.,
 2012; Markland & Tobin, 2010).
 μ
 μ ,
 μ μ (Pelletier et al., 2001; Gagne et al., 2003). μ
 μ μ μ μ
 μ μ (Shilts et al.,
 2004; Grover et al, 2016; McEwan et al., 2016; Pearson, 2012; Swann et al., 2021),
 μ μ (Bailey,
 2017; Locke & Latham, 2002). μ ,
 μ , μ , μ ,
 , μ μ μ (Locke & Latham, 2006; Brown
 et al., 2016; Lawlor & Hornyak, 2012; MacLeod, 2012).
 μμ , μ μ
 μ μ μ (Williams & French, 2011)
 μ μ μ μ
 (McEwan et al., 2016). Marks et al. (2005) μ
 μ ,
 Bloom et al. (2006) μ μ
 μ
 μ . Geurts et al. (2019), μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ

3.1. μ

$\mu\mu$ 90 μ μ (26 , . .

42.31±15.64 64 , . . 37.45±13.98) 26 μ

(8 . . 53.75±7.78 18 . .

47.61±9.70). $\mu\mu$

$\mu\mu$.

μ μ μ μ , μ

μ μ / μ .

μ μ μ

μ μ μ

μ μ μ .

μ μ μ .

DSS 0 4 ().

μ μ μ μ

μ μ μ , , ,

, μ , .

1.2. μ

μ μ

$\mu\mu$ μ μ .

μ $\mu\mu$ μ μ

. μ

μ
 μ . μ μ ,
 μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ . μ
 μ μ μ 10 .
 μ
 / μ
 μ μ .
 μ μ . μ. 1-5/5-10-2016.

3.3.

μ μ
 :

3.3.1. μ SF-36, μ μ
 (Anagnostopoulos et al., 2005). μ
 SF-36 (Ware & Sherbourne, 1992) -
 μ μ μ μ ,
 μμ μ
 μ μ : 1) μ
 , 2) μ , 3) μ , 4) μ , 5)
 , 6) μ , 7) μ 8)
 . 8 μ μ 2 μ ,
 μ μ μ
 0 100 μ
 . μ
 1 5 1 5 .
 SF-36 ,
 μ μ μ

3.3.2. To μ μ ()
 , μ
 μ (Godin & Shephard, 1985), μ μ
 (2005).

3.3.3. μ Baecke et al. (1982), μ
 μ . . (2008)
 (2012). μ μ μ
 , ,

3.3.4. μ « μ » (μ . ., 2000)
 μ μ .
 10 μ μ Likert, (1) (10)
 μ μ μ μ 13

3.3.5. μ μ μ Heatherton et al. (1991) μ
 μ μ μ ,
 μ (μ)

3.3.6. (Michopoulos et al., 2008) μ
 (HADS) Zigmond Snaith (1983),
 μ
 μ μ

3.4.
 μ μ μ t (independent samples t-test)
 μ μ μ (,)
 (,) μ
 μ (SPSS 21.0). μ

$p < .05$.

μ μ μ
μ .

6.1. μ

μ 60 μ μ
 , μ
 μ , μ
 μμ .
 μ , μμ 30 μ
 , 15 15 (N = 30), 23 65
 (M = 38,70 ± 9,53)
 , μ μ μ μ ,
 μ μ (N = 15) μ (= 15). μ μ
 μ μμ , μ
 - μ μ μ ,
 μμ , μ μ , μ
 . μ (N = 15), μμ μ
 .

6.2. μ

μμ μ , μμ
 , μ
 μ μ μ μ
 . μ
 μ μ μ .
 μμ μ , μ
 μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ μ

μ - μ μ : , μ ,
 μ , .
 μ $\mu\mu$ μ , μ
 $\mu\mu$ μ μ (N = 15),
 $\mu\mu$ μ .
 $\mu\mu$, $\mu\mu$.
 μ , μ
 μ
 μ DPESS (μ : 3-1 / 12-12-2018).

6.3.

μ μ μ
 μ μ :
 6.3.1. μ SF-36, μ μ
 (Anagnostopoulos et al., 2005). μ
 SF-36 (Ware & Sherbourne, 1992) -
 μ μ μ μ ,
 μ $\mu\mu$
 $\mu\mu$ μ μ
 μ μ :
 1) μ 2) μ 3) μ 4)
 5) 6) 7) μ
 8) . 8 μ μ 2
 μ , μ μ
 μ 0 100 μ μ
 μ .
 μ 1 5 1
 5 . SF-36
 , μ μ
 μ
 6.3.2. μ Baecke et al. (1982), μ
 μ . . (2008)

(2012). μ μ μ μ

, ,

μ

6.3.3. Το μ μ , μ μ

(Godin & Shephard, 1985), μ μ (2005).

6.3.4. μ « μ » (μ . ., 2000) μ μ μ μ 13 , μ

μ μ μ μ 10 μ μ Likert, (1) (10) .

6.3.5. μ μ Heatherton et al. (1991) μ μ μ μ μ (μ)

6.3.6. (Michopoulos et al., 2008) μ (Zigmond & Snaith, 1983).

μ

μ

μ

6.4.

μ (IBM SPSS Statistics v26.0) μ μ . ,

μ μ Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S).

μ , μ μ μ μ

μ μ μ ANOVA (2x2) μ

μ μ μ (, μ), μ (μ ,) μ μ .

μ , μ μ μ μ μ Mann-Whitney *U*

μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ , μ μ μ μ μ
μ Wilcoxon μ μ μ
μ μ μ . μ $p < .05$.

V

2

1.1.

μ

(μ ,)

μ μ μ μ (, μ)

6 7.

6. (μ ,)

μ μ μ μ μ .

	M ±	K-S	M ±	K-S
	2.90 ± 4.63	1.650*	3.60 ± 5.37	1.428*
	5.50 ± 6.87	1.762**	6.33 ± 6.42	1.486*
	3.60 ± 8.39	2.553**	4.50 ± 11.02	2.511**
	12.00 ±	.998	14.43 ±	.739
	13.25		12.25	
	26.80 ± 2.98	.881	26.60 ± 3.02	.489
μ	2.43 ± 2.42	1.514*	2.03 ± 2.20	1.397*
	7.54 ± 1.37	.718	7.82 ± 1.27	.545

μ

μ s. M = ; = ; K-S = Kolmogorov-Smirnov test;

= ; = ; =

; = ;

* p < .05; ** p < .01.

7. (μ ,)

μ μ μ μ μ .

	M ±	K-S	M ±	K-S
μ	20.37 ± 5.90	.519	21.57 ± 6.18	.530
μ	6.13 ± 1.76	1.402*	5.87 ± 1.76	1.402*
	14.27 ± 4.11	.753	14.87 ± 3.83	.823
	13.87 ± 3.60	.537	15.23 ± 3.48	.515
	19.57 ± 4.52	.742	21.00 ± 4.43	.825
μ	4.83 ± 1.29	1.738*	5.07 ± 1.11	1.640*
μ	7.00 ± 1.93	1.266	7.00 ± 1.86	.757
	4.70 ± 1.90	.789	4.63 ± 1.75	.816
μ	47.77 ± 10.92	.461	49.30 ± 10.70	.587
	42.97 ± 6.87	.785	45.93 ± 6.52	.961
	7.50 ± 4.26	.663	6.90 ± 4.19	.670
	7.37 ± 3.86	.651	6.53 ± 3.48	.657

μ . M = ; = ; K-S = Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

7.2. μ , μ

μ μ μ μ μ μ

(μ , μ ,) μ μ ()

μ μ ANOVA μ μ μ

μ μ (Wilks' = .852, $F_{1,28} = 4.878, p < .05, p^2 = .15$) μ (Wilks' = .779, $F_{1,28} = 7.952, p < .01, p^2 = .22$).

μ ($F_{1,28} = 6.800, p < .05, p^2 = .20$)

μ ($F_{1,28} = 15.905, p < .001, p^2 = .36$) μ

μ μ μ μ μ μ

μ μ μ μ μ μ

μ μ μ μ μ μ (8). μ ,

μ μ μ μ μ μ

μ μ . μμ μ μ
 μ μ μμ μ (8). ,
 μ μ μ μ

(Wilks' = .910, $F_{1,28} = 2.761$, $p = .108$, $p^2 = .09$).

To Mann Whitney U

μ μ μ ($U = 92.50$, $p = .01$) μ
 μ μ μ . μ , Wilcoxon test
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ ($Z = -1.809$, $p = .70$) μ g ($Z = -$
 1.000, $p = .317$).

, Mann Whitney U

μ μ μ ($U = 41.50$, $p < .01$)
 μ μ μ μ , μ μ
 μ μ μ μ (8). ,
 Wilcoxon μ μ μ
 μ μ μ ($Z = -1.078$, $p = .281$) μ
 ($Z = -.816$, $p = .414$).

Mann Whitney U

μ μ μ ($U = 80.50$, $p = .06$) μ
 μ μ μ . μ , Wilcoxon
 μ μ μ μ μ ,
 μ μ ($Z = -.552$, $p = .581$) μ ($Z = -.000$, p
 = 1.00).

μ , Mann Whitney U

μ μ μ ($U = 91,50$, p
 = .361) μ μ μ . ,
 Wilcoxon μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ ($Z = -2,414$, $p < .05$), μ μ
 μ μ μ μ (8).

8.

μ (μ , μ) .

μ μ μ

	(M ± s.d.)	(M ± s.d.)	(M ± s.d.)	(M ± s.d.)
	2.40 ± 3.62	4.00 ± 5.28	3.40 ± 5.54	3.20 ± 5.61
	7.33 ± 7.53	10.00 ± 6.27 ^a	3.67 ± 5.81	2.67 ± 4.17 ^a
	6.60 ± 11.01	8.40 ± 14.62	.60 ± 2.32	.60 ± 2.32
	16.33 ± 16.36 ^b	22.40 ± 11.38 ^{b,c}	7.67 ± 7.42	6.47 ± 6.72 ^c
	26.62 ± 3.19	26.32 ± 3.33	26.98 ± 2.87	26.87 ± 2.76
μ	2.33 ± 2.16 ^d	1.53 ± 1.46 ^d	2.53 ± 2.72	2.53 ± 2.72
	7.56 ± 1.43 ^e	8.11 ± 1.01 ^e	7.52 ± 1.36	7.52 ± 1.45

μ s. M = ; = ; = ;
= ; = ; =
; : μ ;^{a,c} μ
μ μ μ μ μ ;^{b,d,e} μ
, μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ .

7.3. μ

μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ ANOVA μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ
(Wilks' = .855, $F_{1,28} = 4.767$, $p < .05$, $p^2 = .15$).
μ μ
($F_{1,28} = 7.051$, $p < .05$, $p^2 = .20$) μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ
(9). μ μ μ μ μ
μ (Wilks' = .910, $F_{1,28} = 2.761$, $p = .108$, $p^2 = .09$),
μ (Wilks' = .950, $F_{1,28} = 1.474$, $p = .235$, $p^2 = .05$)
μ (Wilks' = .885, $F_{1,28} = 3.654$, $p = .07$, $p^2 = .12$).
μ , Mann Whitney U
μ μ μ μ (U = 108.00,

$p = .845$ Wilcoxon $(Z = -1.166, p = .244)$.
 $(Z = -.683, p = .494)$.

	$(M \pm s)$	$(M \pm s)$	$(M \pm s)$	$(M \pm s)$
μ	20.20 ± 5.44^a	23.07 ± 5.74^a	20.53 ± 6.52	20.07 ± 6.43
μ	6.07 ± 1.94	5.93 ± 1.94	6.20 ± 1.61	5.80 ± 1.61
μ	12.60 ± 3.58	14.13 ± 3.76	15.93 ± 4.03	15.60 ± 3.89
μ	6.67 ± 2.06	7.07 ± 2.12	7.33 ± 1.80	6.93 ± 1.62
μ	45.53 ± 11.84	50.20 ± 12.04	50.00 ± 9.80	48.40 ± 6.56

$M =$; $=$; $^a \mu$
 μ $\mu\mu$ μ μ μ μ .
 , μ μ μ
 $(Wilks' = .818, F_{1,28} = 6.223, p < .05, p^2 = .18)$,
 $(Wilks' = .657, F_{1,28} = 14.638, p < .001, p^2 = .34)$
 $(Wilks' = .633, F_{1,28} = 16.250, p < .001, p^2 = .37)$.
 μ $(F_{1,28} =$
 $11.873, p < .01, p^2 = .30)$, $(F_{1,28} = 20.720, p < .001, p^2 = .43)$
 $(F_{1,28} = 28.233, p < .001, p^2 = .50)$ μ
 μ μ $\mu\mu$ μ μ μ
 μ $\mu\mu$ μ , μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ $\mu\mu$. (10). μ μ
 μ μ μ $(Wilks' =$
 $.920, F_{1,28} = 2.422, p = .131, p^2 = .08)$.
 μ , Mann Whitney U
 μ μ μ μ $(U = 52.00, p < .01)$
 μ μ μ μ , μ $\mu\mu$

μ μ μμ μ
 μ μ μμ .
 μ μ μ μ μμ μ
 μ μ μ μμ μ μ
 μ μ μ Bjarnadottir et al. (2007) μ ,
 μ μ μ
 μ μ μ , μ
 μ μ μ . Tallner et al.
 (2015) μ 265 μ μ
 μ μ μ . Kerling et al. (2015)
 μ μ μ μ
 μμ μμ μ , Mostert Kesselring
 (2002) μ μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ 4 μ μ μ
 . , μ
 μ μμ
 μ μ μ μ
 μ , μ .
 μ Ysraelit et al. (2018) μ 700 μ 300
 μ μ SF-36,
 μ (75%) μ
 (52%) μ μ
 , μ (58%)
 (52%) μ . μ
 μ .
 μ , μ μμ μ
 μ μ
 μμ
 . μ Tallner et al. (2015)
 Kerling et al. (2015) μ , μ
 μ μ
 μ μ (Stuifbergen & Becker, 2001).

, μ μ
 μμ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ ,
 μμ μ μ μμ
 μ
 μ . μ μ μ Farmani et al. (2015),
 Stroud Minahan (2009) Motl et al. (2009)
 μ μ μ μ μ ,
 μ μ μ μ μ
 .
 Jones et al. (2012) μ μ μ μ 4178
 μ , μ μ
 μ μ , μ μ
 μ μ , Dalgas et al. (2014) μ -
 μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ ,
 μ μ μ μ .
 , μ μ
 μ μ
 μμ μ (Ensari et al., 2014).
 μ μ Schüler et al. (2019) μ μ
 μ μ μ μ
 μ
 . Motl et al. (2018)
 μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μμ μ
 μ , μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ .
 μ
 μ μ (Latimer-Cheung et al.,

2013). , μ μ μ
μ μ , μ
μ μ ,
μ μ
μ (Casey et al., 2017).
μ μ
μ (Marks et al., 2005), μ
μ μ μ Geurts et al. (2019)
μ μ μ μ μ - Casey et al.
(2017) μ μ
μ
μ μ
μ
(Bloom et al., 2006; Consolvo et al.,
2009).

μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ
 μ μ μ
 μ μ
 μ follow up studies 3 6 μ μ
 μ , $\mu\mu$ μ
 μ μ μ μ
 μ μ .

- Anagnostopoulos, F., Niakas, D. & Pappa, E. (2005). Construct validation of the Greek SF-36 Health Survey. *Quality of Life Research*, 14(8), 1959-1965. doi: [10.1007/s11136-005-3866-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-005-3866-8)
- Atlas of Multiple Sclerosis 2014: A growing global problem with widespread inequity, *Neurology*, 83(11), 1022-1024. doi: [10.1212/WNL.0000000000000768](https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000000768)
- Anens, E., Emtner, M., Zetterberg, L. & Hellstrom, K. (2014). Physical activity in subjects with multiple sclerosis with focus on gender differences: a survey. *BMC Neurology*, 14, 47. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2377-14-47>
- Ascherio, A. (2013). Environmental factors in multiple sclerosis. *Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics*, 13(12 Suppl), 3-9. doi: [10.1586/14737175.2013.865866](https://doi.org/10.1586/14737175.2013.865866)
- Ascherio, A., Munger, K.L., White, R., Köchert, K., Simon, K. C., Polman, C. H., Freedman, M. S., Hartung, H. P., Miller, D. H., Montalbán, X., Edan, G., Barkhof, F., Pleimes, D., Radü, E. W., Sandbrink, R., Kappos, L. & Pohl, C., (2014). Vitamin D as an early predictor of multiple sclerosis activity and progression. *JAMA Neurology*, 71(3), 306-314. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2013.5993>
- Baecke, J. A. H., Burema, J., & Frijters, J. E. R. (1982). A short questionnaire for the measurement of habitual physical activity in epidemiological studies. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 36, 936-942. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/36.5.936>
- Bailey, R. R. (2017). Goal Setting and Action Planning for Health Behavior Change. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, 13(6), 615-618. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1559827617729634>
- Barbeau, A., Sweet, S. N., & Fortier, M. S. (2009). A path-analytic model of self-determined theory in a physical activity context. *Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research*, 14, 103-118. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.17519861.2009.00043.x>

- Beckerman, H., de Groot, V., Scholten, M. A., Kempen, J. C. & Lankhorst, G. J. (2010). Physical activity behavior of people with multiple sclerosis: understanding how they can become more physically active. *Physical Activity*, 90(7), 1001-1013. <https://doi.org/10.2522/ptj.20090345>
- Belbasis, L., Bellou, V., Evangelou, E., Ioannidis, J. P., & Tzoulaki, I. (2015). Environmental risk factors and multiple sclerosis: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *The Lancet Neurology*, 14(3), 263-273. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(14\)70267-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(14)70267-4)
- Bebetsos, E., Chroni, S., & Theodorakis, Y. (2002). Physical active students' intentions and self-efficacy towards healthy eating. *Psychological Reports*, 91, 485-495. <https://doi.org/10.2466/pr0.2002.91.2.485>
- Belbasis, L., Bellou, V., Evangelou, E., Ioannidis, J. P., & Tzoulaki, I. (2015). Environmental risk factors and multiple sclerosis: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and metaanalyses. *The Lancet Neurology* 14(3), 263-273. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(14\)70267-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(14)70267-4)
- Benito-León, J., Manuel Morales, J., Rivera-Navarro, J., & Mitchell, A. J. (2003). A review about the impact of multiple sclerosis on health-related quality of life. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 25(23), 1291-1303. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638280310001608591>
- Bjarnadottir, O. H., Konradsdottir, A. D., Reynisdottir, K., & Olafsson, E. (2007). Multiple sclerosis and brief moderate exercise. A randomised study. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 13(6), 776-782. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458506073780>
- Borg, G. A. (1998). *Borg's perceived exertion and pain scales*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.
- Buhse, M., Banker, W. M., & Clement, L. M. (2014). Factors associated with health-related quality of life among older people with multiple sclerosis. *JMS Care*, 16, 10-19. <https://doi.org/10.7224/1537-2073.2012-046>
- Bloom, L. F., Lapierre, N. M., Wilson, K. G., Curran, D., DeForge, D. A., & Blackmer, J. (2006). Concordance in goal setting between patients with multiple sclerosis and their rehabilitation team. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, 85(10), 807-813. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.phm.0000237871.91829.30>

- Brown, G., Leonard, C., & Arthur-Kelly, M. (2016). Writing SMARTER goals for professional learning and improving classroom practices. *Reflective Practice*, 17(5), 621-635. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14623943.2016.1187120>
- Buhse, M., Banker, W. M., & Clement, L. M. (2014). Factors associated with health-related quality of life among older people with multiple sclerosis. *International Journal of MS Care*, 16(1), 10-19. <https://doi.org/10.7224/1537-2073.2012-046>
- Carek, P. J., Laibstain, S. E., & Carek, S. M. (2011). Exercise for the treatment of depression and anxiety. *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine*, 41(1), 15-28. <https://doi.org/10.2190/PM.41.1.c>
- Casetta, I., Trond, R., Nortvedt, M. W., Economou, N. T., De Gennaro, R., Fazio, P., Cesnil, E., Govoni, V., & Granieri, E. (2009). Gender differences in health-related quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 15, 1339-1346.
- Casey, B., Coote, S., Shirazipour, C., Hannigan, A., Motl, R., Martin Ginis, K., & Latimer-Cheung, A. (2017). Modifiable psychosocial constructs associated with physical activity participation in people with multiple sclerosis: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 98(7), 1453-1475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2017.01.027>
- Chakravarthy, M. V., Joyner, M. J., & Booth, F. W. (2002). An obligation for primary care physicians to prescribe physical activity to sedentary patients to reduce the risk of chronic health conditions. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, 77, 165-173. <https://doi.org/10.4065/77.2.165>
- Chang, A., Tourtellotte, W., Rudick, R., & Trapp, B. (2002). Premyelinating oligodendrocytes in chronic lesions of multiple sclerosis. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 346(3), 165-173. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa010994>
- Christensen, L. R. (1975). Concepts and measurement of agricultural productivity. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 57(5), 910-915. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1239102>
- Chwastiak, L., Ehde, D., M., Gibbons, L., E., & Sullivan, M. (2002). Depressive symptoms and severity of illness in multiple sclerosis: Epidemiologic study of a large community sample. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 159(11), 1862-1868. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.159.11.1862>
- Compston, A., & Coles, A. (2008). Multiple sclerosis. *The Lancet (London, England)*, 372(9648), 1502-1517. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(08\)61620-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(08)61620-7)

- Consolvo, S., Klasnja, P., McDonald, D., & Landay, J. (2009). Goal-setting considerations for persuasive technologies that encourage physical activity. *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Persuasive Technology - Persuasive '09*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1541948.1541960>
- Conti, A. A., Macchi, C., Molino, L. R., Conti, A., & Gensini, G. F. (2007). Relationship between physical activity and cardiovascular disease. Selected historical highlights. *Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness*, 47(1), 84-90.
- Confavreux, C., Hutchinson, M., Hours, M. M., Cortinovis-Tourniaire, P., Moreau, T., & Pregnancy in Multiple Sclerosis Group. (1998). Rate of pregnancy-related relapse in multiple sclerosis. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 339(5), 285-291. DOI: [10.1056/NEJM199807303390501](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJM199807303390501)
- Coombs, H. C. (1990). *The return of scarcity: Strategies for an economic future*. Australia: Cambridge University Press.
- Courtney, A. M., Treadaway, K., Remington, G., & Frohman, E. (2009). Multiple sclerosis. *The Medical clinics of North America*, 93(2), 451-x. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mcna.2008.09.014>
- Coyle, D. (2010). CLIL: A pedagogical approach from the European perspective. In N. H. Hornberger, & N. Van Deusen-Sholl (Eds.), *Second and Foreign Language Education* (2nd ed., Vol. 4, pp. 97-111). (Encyclopedia of Language and Education; Vol. 4, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-30424-3>
- Crisp, R. (2005) Well- being, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Internet: University of Oxford.
- Currie, C., Roberts, C., Morgan, A., Smith, R., Settertobulte, W., Samdal, O. & Barnekow Rasmussen, V. (eds.) (2004). *Young People 's Health in Context: international report from the HBSC 2001/02 survey*. WHO Policy Series: Health policy for children and adolescents, Issue 4, Copenhagen. WHO Regional Office for Europe.
- Cummins R. A. (2005). Moving from the quality of life concept to a theory. *Journal of intellectual disability research: JIDR*, 49(Pt 10), 699-706. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2788.2005.00738.x>
- Dalgas, U. (2017). Exercise therapy in multiple sclerosis and its effects on function and the brain. *Neurodegenerative Disease Management*, 7(6s), 35-40.

- Dalgas, U., Stenager, E., & Sloth, M. (2014). The effect of exercise on depressive symptoms in multiple sclerosis based on a meta analysis and critical review of the literature. *European Journal of Neurology*, 22(3), 443-e34. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ene.12576>
- Dalgas, U., Stenager, E., & Ingemann-Hansen, T. (2008). Multiple sclerosis and physical exercise: recommendations for the application of resistance-, endurance and combined training. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 14(1), 35-53. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458507079445>
- Dalgas, U., Stenager, E., Jakobsen, J., Petersen, T., Hansen, H. J., Knudsen, C., Overgaard, K., & Ingemann-Hansen, T. (2010). Fatigue, mood and quality of life improve in MS patients after progressive resistance training. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 16(4), 480-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458509360040>
- Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (2000). The "what" and "why" of goal pursuits: Human needs and the self-determination of behavior. *Psychological Inquiry*, 11(4), 227-268. https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327965PLI1104_01
- Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (2008). Self-determination theory: A macrotheory of human motivation, development, and health. *Canadian Psychology/Psychologie Canadienne*, 49(3), 182. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0012801>
- Delbue, S., Carluccio, S., & Ferrante, P. (2012). The long and evolving relationship between viruses and multiple sclerosis, *Future Virology*, 7(9), 871-883.
- Department of Health. (2004). *Choosing health? Choosing activity: A consultation on how to increase physical activity*. London, UK: Department of Health/Department of Culture Media and Sport.
- Department of Health. (2011). UK physical activity guidelines. Retrieved from www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_127931
- Dishman, R. K., Washburn, R. A., & Heath, G. W. (2004). Physical activity and diabetes. In R.K. Dishman, R.A. Washburn & G.W. Heath (Eds.). *Physical Activity Epidemiology* (pp. 191-207). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.
- Dlugonski, D., Joyce, R. J., Motl, R. W. (2012). Meanings, motivations, and strategies for engaging in physical activity among women with multiple sclerosis. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 34(25), 2148-2157. <https://doi.org/10.3109/09638288.2012.677935>

- Ebers, G. C., Sadovnick, A. D., Dyment, D. A., Yee, I. M., Willer, C. J., & Risch, N. (2004). Parent-of-origin effect in multiple sclerosis: Observations in half-siblings. *Lancet*, 363, 1773-1774. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(04\)16304-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(04)16304-6)
- Ebers, G. C., Sadovnick, A. D., & Risch, N. J. (1995). A genetic basis for familial aggregation in multiple sclerosis. Canadian Collaborative Study Group. *Nature*, 377(6545), 150-151. <https://doi.org/10.1038/377150a0>
- Ebrahim, S. (1995). Clinical and public health perspectives and applications of health-related quality of life measurement. *Social Science & Medicine*, 41(10), 1383-1394. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536\(95\)00116-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536(95)00116-0)
- Ensari, I., Motl, R. W., & Pilutti, L. A. (2014). Exercise training improves depressive symptoms in people with multiple sclerosis: results of a meta-analysis. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 76(6), 465-471. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2014.03.014>
- Esposito, S., Bonavita, S., Sparaco, M., Gallo, A. & Tedeschi, G. (2018). The role of diet in multiple sclerosis: A review. *Nutritional Neuroscience*, 21(6), 377-390. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1028415X.2017.1303016>
- Eurobarometer (2015). *Special Eurobarometer 429 "Attitudes of Europeans towards Tobacco and Electronic Cigarettes"*. Brussels. European Commission.
- Farmani, F., Taghavi, H., Fatemi, A., & Safavi, S. (2015). The efficacy of group reality therapy on reducing stress, anxiety and depression in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). *International Journal of Applied Behavioral Sciences*, 2(4), 33-38. <https://doi.org/10.22037/ijabs.v2i4.11421>
- Feinstein, A., O'Connor, P., & Gray T. (1999). The effects of anxiety and psychiatric morbidity in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 5, 323-326. <https://doi.org/10.1177/135245859900500504>
- Ferentinos, P., Kontaxakis, V., HavakiKontaxaki, B., Paplos, K. & Soldatos, C. (2007). The measurement of fatigue in depression. *Psychopathology*, 40(2), 133-134. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000098494>
- Ford, K.R., & DeStefano, F. (1991). Risk factors for mortality from all causes and from coronary heart disease among persons with disabilities. Findings from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Epidemiologic follow-up study. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 133, 1220-1230. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordjournals.aje.a115834>

- Fortier, M. S. & Kowal, J. (2007). The flow state and physical activity behavior change as motivational outcomes: a self-determination theory perspective. In M. Hagger, & N. Chatzisarantis (Eds.), *Self-determination theory in exercise and sport* (pp.113-125). Human Kinetics.
- Fragoso, Y. D., Santana, D. L., & Pinto, R. C. (2008). The positive effects of a physical activity program for multiple sclerosis patients with fatigue. *NeuroRehabilitation*, 23(2), 153-157. <https://doi.org/10.3233/NRE-2008-23204>
- Fromont, A., Bénatru, I., Gignoux, L., Couvreur, G., Confavreux, C., & Moreau, T. (2010). Phénomène d'Uhthoff lié à l'effort, isolé, précédant une sclérose en plaques. *Revue Neurologique*, 166(1), 61-65. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurol.2009.04.012>
- Fruehwald, S., Loeffler-Stastka, H., Eher, R., Saletu, B., & Baumhackl, U. (2001). Depression and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*, 104(5), 257-261. <https://doi.org/10.1034/j.1600-0404.2001.00022.x>
- Gagne, M., Ryan, R. M., & Bargmann, K. (2003). Autonomy support and need satisfaction in the motivation and well-being of gymnasts. *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*, 15, 372-390. <https://doi.org/10.1080/714044203>
- Geurts, ., Van Geel, F., Feys, P., & Coninx, K. (2019). WalkWithMe: Personalized goal setting and coaching for walking in people with multiple sclerosis. *Proceedings of the 27th ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization*, Larnaca, Cyprus. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3320435.3320459>
- Ghadirian, P., Jain, M. & Ducic, S. (1998). Nutrition factors in the aetiology of multiple sclerosis: a case-control study in Montreal, Canada. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 27(5), 845-52. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/27.5.845>
- Godin, G., & Shephard, R. J. (1985). A simple method to assess exercise behavior in the community. *Canadian Journal of Applied Sport Sciences*, 10, 141-146.
- Godin, G., & Shephard, R. J. (1985). Psycho-social predictors of exercise intentions among spouses. *Canadian Journal of Applied Sport Sciences (Journal Canadien des Sciences Appliquées au Sport)*, 10(1), 36-43.
- Goodin, D. S., Frohman, E. M., Garmany, G. P., Jr, Halper, J., Likosky, W. H., Lublin, F. D., Silberberg, D. H., Stuart, W. H., van den Noort, S., & Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the MS Council for Clinical Practice Guidelines

- (2002). Disease modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis: report of the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the MS Council for Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Neurology*, 58(2), 169-178. <https://doi.org/10.1212/wnl.58.2.169>
- Goodwin, R. D. (2003). Association between physical activity and mental disorders among adults in the United States. *Preventive Medicine*, 36(6), 698-703. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0091-7435\(03\)00042-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0091-7435(03)00042-2)
- Goss, J. & Grubbs, L. (2005). Comparative analysis of Body Mass Index, consumption of fruits and vegetables, smoking and physical activity among Florida residents. *Journal of Community Health Nursing*, 1, 37-46. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327655jchn2201_4
- Goverman, J. (2009). Autoimmune T cell responses in the central nervous system, In Nature Reviews. *Immunology*, 9(6), 393-407.
- Grover, S. A., Sawicki, C. P., Kinnett-Hopkins, D., Finlayson, M., Schneiderman, J. E., Banwell, B., Till, C., Motl, R. W., & Yeh, E. A. (2016). Physical activity and its correlates in youth with multiple sclerosis. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 179, 197-203. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2016.08.104>
- Guay, F., Boggiano, A., & Vallerand, R. (2001). Autonomy support, intrinsic motivation, and perceived competence: conceptual and empirical linkages. *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, 27(6), 643-650. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167201276001>
- Hadgkiss, E. J., Jelinek, G. A., Weiland, T. J., Pereira, N. G., Marck, C. H., & van der Meer, D. M. (2015). The association of diet with quality of life, disability, and relapse rate in an international sample of people with multiple sclerosis. *Nutritional Neuroscience*, 18(3), 125-136. <https://doi.org/10.1179/1476830514Y.0000000117>
- Hagger, M., & Chatzisarantis, N. (2008). Self-determination theory and the psychology of exercise. *International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, 7(1), 79-103. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17509840701827437>
- Hall - McMaster, S. M., Treharne, G. J., & Smith, C. M. (2016). 'The positive feel': Unpacking the role of positive thinking in people with multiple sclerosis's thinking aloud about staying physically active. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 21(12), 3026-3036. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105315592047>

- Hammer, A., Nilsagård, Y., Forsberg, A., Pepa, H., Skargren, E., & Oberg, B. (2005). Evaluation of therapeutic riding (Sweden)/hippotherapy (United States). A single-subject experimental design study replicated in eleven patients with multiple sclerosis. *Physiotherapy Theory and Practice*, 21(1), 51-77. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09593980590911525>
- Hannukainen, J. C., Janatuinen, T., Toikka, J. O., Järvisalo, M. J., Heinonen, O. J., Kapanen, J., Någren, K., Nuutila, P., Kujala, U. M., Kaprio, J., Knuuti, J., & Kalliokoski, K. K. (2007). Myocardial and peripheral vascular functional adaptation to exercise training. *Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports*, 17(2), 139-147. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0838.2006.00548.x>
- Heatherton, T. F., Kozlowski, L. T., Frecker, R. C., & Fagerström, K. O. (1991). The Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence: a revision of the Fagerström Tolerance Questionnaire. *British Journal of Addiction*, 86(9), 1119-1127. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.1991.tb01879.x>
- Heikkinen, R., Vihriala, E., Vainionpää, A., Korpelainen, R. & Jamsa, T. (2007). Acceleration slope of exercise induced impacts is a determinant of changes in bone density. *Journal of Biomechanics*, 40(13), 2967-2974 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2007.02.003>
- Hempel, S., Graham, G. D., Fu, N., Estrada, E., Chen, A. Y., Miake-Lye, I. & Wallin, M. T. (2017). A systematic review of modifiable risk factors in the progression of multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 23(4), 525-533. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458517690270>
- Homayuni, A., Abedini, S., Hosseini, Z., Etemadifar, M., & Ghanbarnejad, A. (2021). Explaining the facilitators of quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis: a qualitative study. *BMC Neurology*, 21(1), 193. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-021-02213-9>
- Huisinga, J. M., Filipi, M. L. & Stergiou, N. (2011). Elliptical exercise improves fatigue ratings and quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, 48(7), 881-890. <https://doi.org/10.1682/jrrd.2010.08.0152>
- Jafari, N., & Hintzen, R. Q. (2011). The association between cigarette smoking and multiple sclerosis. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 311(1-2), 78-85. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2011.09.008>

- Janzen, W., Turpin, K. V., Warren, S. A., Marrie, R. A. & Warren, K. G. (2013). Change in the health-related quality of life of multiple sclerosis patients over 5 years. *International Journal of MS Care*, 15(1), 46-53. <https://doi.org/10.7224/1537-2073.2012-020>
- Jones, K. H., Ford, D. V., Jones, P. A., John, A., Middleton, R. M., Lockhart-Jones, H., Osborne, L. A. & Noble, J. G. (2012). A large-scale study of anxiety and depression in people with Multiple Sclerosis: a survey via the web portal of the UK MS Register. *PloS one*, 7(7), e41910. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0041910>
- Kalron, A., Menascu, S., Frid, L., Aloni, R., & Achiron, A. (2019). Physical activity in mild multiple sclerosis: contribution of perceived fatigue, energy cost, and speed of walking. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 8, 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2018.1519603>
- Kanner, A. M., & Barry, J. J. (2003). The impact of mood disorders in neurological diseases: should neurologists be concerned?. *Epilepsy & behavior: E&B*, 4 Suppl 3, S3-S13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yebeh.2003.08.018>
- Karageorgou, A., Kokaridas, D., Theodorakis, Y., Goudas, M., Krommidas, C., Christodoulou, E. & Mousiolis, S. (2022). The effect of a combined exercise and goal setting program on physical activity levels, nutritional habits and smoking cessation of Greek patients with multiple sclerosis. *European Journal of Physical Education and Sport Science*, 8(5), 1-14. <http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejpe.v8i5.4344>
- Karageorgou, A., Kokaridas, D., Theodorakis, Y., Mousiolis, S., Patsiaouras, A. & Goudas, M. (2019). Comparative study of individuals with and without multiple sclerosis: Overall profile of quality of life, exercise, health behaviors. *International Journal of Sports Science and Physical Education*, 3(4), 55-61. [doi: 10.11648/j.ijsspe.20180304.12](https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijsspe.20180304.12)
- Kargarfard, M., Eetemadifar, M., Mehrabi, M., Maghzi, A. H. & Hayatbakhsh, M. R. (2012). Fatigue, depression, and health-related quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis in Isfahan, Iran. *European Journal of Neurology*, 19(3), 431-437. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-1331.2011.03535.x>
- Kerling, A., Keweloh, K., Tegtbur, U., Kück, M., Grams, L., Horstmann, H. & Windhagen, A. (2015). Effects of a short physical exercise intervention on

- patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 16(7), 15761-15775. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms160715761>
- Koutsouraki, E., Koukoulidis, I., & Parlapanis, A. (1994). Epidemiological study of multiple sclerosis in patients of A'Neurological Clinic of Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, during the years 1973-1992. *Encephalos*, 31, 103-111.
- Kurtzke, J. F. (1983). Rating neurologic impairment in multiple sclerosis; an expanded disability status scale (EDSS). *Neurology*, 33, 1444-1452. <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.33.11.1444>
- Kutzelnigg, A. & Lassmann, H. (2014). Pathology of multiple sclerosis and related inflammatory demyelinating diseases. *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*, 122, 15-58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-444-52001-2.00002-9>
- Lai, B., Young, H. J., Bickel, C. S., Motl, R. W., & Rimmer, J. H. (2017). Current trends in exercise intervention research, technology, and behavioral change strategies for people with disabilities: A scoping review. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, 96(10), 748-761. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PHM.0000000000000743>
- Lassmann, H. (2005). Multiple sclerosis pathology: evolution of pathogenetic concepts. *Brain Pathology*, 15(3), 217-222. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1750-3639.2005.tb00523.x>
- Latimer-Cheung, A. E., Pilutti, L. A., Hicks, A. L., Martin Ginis, K. A., Fenuta, A. M., MacKibbin, K. A. & Motl, R. W. (2013). Effects of exercise training on fitness, mobility, fatigue, and health-related quality of life among adults with multiple sclerosis: a systematic review to inform guideline development. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 94(9), 1800-1828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2013.04.020>
- Lawlor, K. B. & Hornyak, M. J. (2012). SMART goals: How the application of SMART goals contribute to achievement of student learning outcomes. *Developments in Business Simulation and Experiential Learning*, 39, 259-267.
- Learmonth, Y. C., & Motl, R. W. (2016). Physical activity and exercise training in multiple sclerosis: a review and content analysis of qualitative research identifying perceived determinants and consequences. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 38(13), 1227-1242. <https://doi.org/10.3109/09638288.2015.1077397>

- Locke, E. A., & Latham, G. P. (2002). Building a practically useful theory of goal setting and task motivation. A 35-year odyssey. *The American Psychologist*, 57(9), 705-717. <https://doi.org/10.1037//0003-066x.57.9.705>
- Locke, E. A., & Latham, G. P. (2006). New directions in goal-setting theory. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15, 265-268. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8721.2006.00449.x>
- Lucchinetti, C., Brück, W., Parisi, J., Scheithauer, B., Rodriguez, M., & Lassmann, H. (2000). Heterogeneity of multiple sclerosis lesions: implications for the pathogenesis of demyelination. *Annals of Neurology: Official Journal of the American Neurological Association and the Child Neurology Society*, 47(6), 707-717. [https://doi.org/10.1002/1531-8249\(200006\)47:6<707::aid_ana3>3.0.co;2-q](https://doi.org/10.1002/1531-8249(200006)47:6<707::aid_ana3>3.0.co;2-q)
- Lynch, S., Kroencke, D., & Denney, D. (2001). The relationship between disability and depression in multiple sclerosis: the role of uncertainty, coping and hope. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 7(6), 411-416. <https://doi.org/10.1177/135245850100700611>
- McAuley, E., Konopack, J. F., Motl, R. W., Morris, K. S., Doerksen, S. E., & Rosengren, K. R. (2006). Physical activity and quality of life in older adults: influence of health status and self-efficacy. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine: a publication of the Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 31(1), 99-103. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15324796abm3101_14
- MacLeod, L. (2012). Making SMART goals smarter. *Physician Executive Journal*, 38(2), 68-72.
- Makri, S. (2013). *Quality of life management of patients with multiple sclerosis*. Unpublished master thesis. University of Peloponnese.
- Manji, H., Connolly, S., Dorward, N., Kitchen, N., Mehta, A., & Wills, A. (2007). *Oxford Handbook of Neurology*, US: Oxford University Press.
- Marck, C. H., Hadgkiss, E. J., Weiland, T. J., van der Meer, D. M., Pereira, N. G., & Jelinek, G. A. (2014). Physical activity and associated levels of disability and quality of life in people with multiple sclerosis: a large international survey. *BMC Neurology*, 14, 143. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2377-14-143>
- Mark, C. H., Hadgkiss, E. J., Weiland, T. J., van der Meer, D. M., Pereira, N. G., & Jelineck, G. A. (2014). Physical activity and associated levels of disability and quality of life in people with multiple sclerosis: a large international survey. *BMC Neurology*, 47, 707-717. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2377-14-143>

- Markland, D., & Tobin, V. (2010). Need support and behavioural regulations for exercise among exercise referral scheme clients: the mediating role of psychological need satisfaction. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, *11*, 91. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychsport.2009.07.001>
- Marks, R., Allegrante, J. P., & Lorig, K. (2005). A review and synthesis of research evidence for self-efficacy-enhancing interventions for reducing chronic disability: implications for health education practice (part II). *Health Promotion Practice*, *6*(2), 148-156. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524839904266792>
- Mathews, W. B. (2001). *Multiple Sclerosis: the Facts* (4th ed.), US: Oxford University Press.
- McCabe, M. P. (2005). Mood and self-esteem of persons with multiple sclerosis following an exacerbation. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, *59*, 161-166. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2005.04.010>
- McCall, S. (1975). Quality of life. *Social Indicators Research*, *2*, 229-248.
- McClain, M. A., Gatson, N. N., Powell, N. D., Papenfuss, T. L., Gienapp, I. E., Song, F. & Whitacre, C. C. (2007). Pregnancy suppresses experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis through immunoregulatory cytokine production. *The Journal of Immunology*, *179*(12), 8146-8152. <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.179.12.8146>
- McEwan, D., Harden, S. M., Zumbo, B. D., Sylvester, B. D., Kaulius, M., Ruissen, G. R., Dowd, A. J. & Beauchamp, M. R. (2016). The effectiveness of multi-component goal setting interventions for changing physical activity behaviour: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Health Psychology Review*, *10*(1), 67- 88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2015.1104258>
- Michopoulos, I., Douzenis, A., Kalkavoura, C., Christodoulou, C., Michalopoulou, P., Kalemi, G., Fineti, K., Patapis, P., Protopapas, K. & Lykouras, L. (2008). Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS): validation in a Greek general hospital sample. *Annals of General Psychiatry*, *7*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1744-859X-7-4>
- Miller, A., & Dishon, S. (2006). Health-related quality of life in multiple sclerosis: The impact of disability, gender and employment status. *Quality of Life Research*, *15*(2), 259-271.
- Miller, D., Barkhof, F., Montalban, X., Thompson, A. & Filippi, M. (2005). Clinically isolated syndromes suggestive of multiple sclerosis, part I: natural history,

- pathogenesis, diagnosis, and prognosis. *The Lancet Neurology*, 4(5), 281-288.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(05\)70071-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(05)70071-5)
- Milonas, I., Tsounis, S., & Logothetis, I. (1990). Epidemiology of multiple sclerosis in northern Greece. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica* 81(1), 43-47.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0404.1990.tb00929.x>
- Minden, S. L. (2000). Mood disorders in multiple sclerosis: diagnosis and treatment. *Journal of Neurovirology*, 6(S2), S160-S167.
- Mirzaei, F., Michels, K. B., Munger, K., O'Reilly, E., Chitnis, T., Forman, M. R., Giovannucci, E., Rosner, B., & Ascherio, A. (2011). Gestational vitamin D and the risk of multiple sclerosis in offspring. *Annals of Neurology*, 70(1), 30-40.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ana.22456>
- Mitchell, A. J., Benito-León, J., González, J. M. M., & Rivera-Navarro, J. (2005). Quality of life and its assessment in multiple sclerosis: integrating physical and psychological components of wellbeing. *The Lancet Neurology*, 4(9), 556-566.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(05\)70166-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(05)70166-6)
- Mostert, S., & Kesselring, J. (2002). Effects of a short-term exercise training program on aerobic fitness, fatigue, health perception and activity level of subjects with multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 8(2), 161-168.
<https://doi.org/10.1191/1352458502ms779oa>
- Motl, R. W., & Gosney, J. L. (2008). Effect of exercise training on quality of life in multiple sclerosis: a meta-analysis. *Multiple Sclerosis* (Houndmills, Basingstoke, England), 14(1), 129-135.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458507080464>
- Motl, R. W., & McAuley, E. (2009). Pathways between physical activity and quality of life in adults with multiple sclerosis. *Health Psychology*, 28(6), 682-689.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/a0015985>
- Motl, R. W., & McAuley, E. (2014). Physical activity and health-related quality of life over time in adults with multiple sclerosis. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 59(4), 415-421. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0037739>
- Motl, R. W., McAuley, E., Snook, E. M., & Gliottoni, R. C. (2009). Physical activity and quality of life in multiple sclerosis: intermediary roles of disability, fatigue, mood, pain, self-efficacy and social support. *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 14(1), 111-124. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13548500802241902>

- Motl, R. W., Pekmezi, D. & Wingo, B. C. (2018). Promotion of physical activity and exercise in multiple sclerosis: Importance of behavioral science and theory. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal - Experimental, Translational and Clinical*, 4(3), 2055217318786745. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2055217318786745>
- Motl, R. W., & Snook, E. M. (2008). Physical activity, self-efficacy, and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 35(1), 111-115. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-007-9006-7>
- Munger, K. L., Chitnis, T., Frazier, A. L., Giovannucci, E., Spiegelman, D., & Ascherio, A. (2011). Dietary intake of vitamin D during adolescence and risk of multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology*, 258(3), 479-485. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-010-5783-1>
- Munger, K. L., Levin, L. I., Hollis, B. W., Howard, N. S., & Ascherio, A. (2006). Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels and risk of multiple sclerosis. *JAMA*, 296(23), 2832-2838. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.296.23.2832>
- GBD 2013 DALYs and HALE Collaborators, Murray, C. J., Barber, R. M., Foreman, K. J., Abbasoglu Ozgoren, A., Abd-Allah, F., Abera, S. F., Aboyans, V., Abraham, J. P., Abubakar, I., Abu-Raddad, L. J., Abu-Rmeileh, N. M., Achoki, T., Ackerman, I. N., Ademi, Z., Adou, A. K., Adsuar, J. C., Afshin, A., Agardh, E. E., Alam, S. S., ... Vos, T. (2015). Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 306 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 188 countries, 1990-2013: quantifying the epidemiological transition. *The Lancet*, 386(10009), 2145-2191. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)61340-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)61340-X)
- Ng, J. Y., Ntoumanis, N., Thøgersen-Ntoumani, C., Deci, E. L., Ryan, R. M., Duda, J. L., & Williams, G. C. (2012). Self-Determination Theory applied to health contexts: A meta-analysis. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 7(4), 325-340. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691612447309>
- Noseworthy, J. H., Wolinsky, J. S., Lublin, F. D., Whitaker, J. N., Linde, A., Gjorstrup, P., & North American Linomide Investigators. (2000). Linomide in relapsing and secondary progressive MS: part I: trial design and clinical results. *Neurology*, 54(9), 1726-1733. <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.54.9.1726>
- Obesity, Fitness & Wellness Week (2016). *Multiple Sclerosis; New role of environment in multiple sclerosis revealed*, US: NewsRx.

- O' Hara S. U., & Diwan, . (1999). The Quality of Life. In P. A. O' Hara (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Political Economy*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Paparrigopoulos, T., Ferentinos, P., Kouzoupis, A., Koutsis, G., Papadimitriou, G., (2010). The neuropsychiatry of multiple sclerosis: focus on disorders of mood, affect and behaviour. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 22(1), 14-21. <https://doi.org/10.3109/09540261003589323>
- Patti, F., Pozzilli, C., Montanari, E., Pappalardo, A., Piazza, L., Levi, A., & Pesci, I. (2007). Effects of education level and employment status on HRQoL in early relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 13(6), 783-791. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458506073511>
- Pearson, E. S. (2012). Goal setting as a health behavior change strategy in overweight and obese adults: a systematic literature review examining intervention components. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 87(1), 32-42. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2011.07.018>
- Pelletier, L. G., Fortier, M. S., Vallerand, R. J., & Briere, N. M. (2001). Associations among perceived autonomy support, forms of self-regulation, and persistence: a prospective study. *Motivation and Emotion*, 25, 279-306.
- Petajan, J. H., Gappmaier, E., White, A. T., Spencer, M. K., Mino, L., & Hicks, R. W. (1996). Impact of aerobic training on fitness and quality of life of multiple sclerosis patients. *Annals of Neurology*, 39(4), 432-441. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ana.410390405>
- Ponsonby, A., Hughes, A., Lucas, R., (2011). The 'hygiene hypothesis' and the development of multiple sclerosis, *In Neurodegenerative Disease Management*, 1(4), 285-294. <https://doi.org/10.2217/nmt.11.38>
- Pozuelo-Moyano, B., & Benito-León, J. (2014). Dieta y esclerosis múltiple [Diet and multiple sclerosis]. *Revista de Neurologia*, 58(10), 455-464.
- Public Health Agency of Canada Healthy Living Unit. (2003). *Facts on current physical activity levels of Canadians*. Retrieve from. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/pauuap/paguide/back3 e.html>
- Rafeeyan, Z., Azarbarzin, M., Moosa, F. M., & Hasanzadeh, A. (2010). Effect of aquatic exercise on the multiple sclerosis patients' quality of life. *Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research*, 15(1), 43-47.

- Ramagopalan, S., Dobson, R., Meier, U., Giovannoni, G. (2010). Multiple sclerosis: risk factors, prodromes, and potential causal pathways, *In Lancet Neurology*, 9, 727-739. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(10\)70094-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(10)70094-6)
- Rebar, A. L., Stanton, R., Geard, D., Short, C., Duncan, M. J. & Vandelanotte, C. (2015). A meta-meta-analysis of the effect of physical activity on depression and anxiety in non-clinical adult populations. *Health Psychology Review*, 9(3), 366-378. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2015.1022901>
- Riccio, P. & Rossano, R. (2015). Nutrition facts in multiple sclerosis. *ASN Neuro*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1759091414568185>
- Rickards, H. (2005). *Women confronting the reality of multiple sclerosis: a qualitative model of self-healing*. PhD, Department of Health Promotion and Education, University of Utah.
- Riether, A. M. (1999). Anxiety in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Seminars in Clinical Neuropsychiatry*, 4, 103-113. <https://doi.org/10.1053/scnp00400103>
- Riise, T., Nortvedt, M. W., & Ascherio, A. (2003). Smoking is a risk factor for multiple sclerosis. *Neurology*, 61(8), 1122-1124. <https://doi.org/10.1212/01.WNL.0000081305.66687.D2>
- Romberg, A., Virtanen, A., & Ruutiainen, J. (2005). Long-term exercise improves functional impairment but not quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology*, 252(7), 839-845. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-005-0759-2>
- Salzer, J., Hallmans, G., Nyström, M., Stenlund, H., Wadell, G. & Sundström, P. (2013). Smoking as a risk factor for multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis* (Houndmills, Basingstoke, England), 19(8), 1022-1027. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458512470862>
- Samartzis, L., Gavala, E., Zoukos, Y., Aspiotis, A., & Thomaidis, T. (2014). Perceived cognitive decline in multiple sclerosis impacts quality of life independently of depression. *Rehabilitation Research and Practice*, 2014, 128751. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/128751>
- Sandoval, A. E. (2013). Exercise in multiple sclerosis. *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America*, 24(4), 605-618.
- Sasco, J. A., Laforest, L., Benhaim-Luzon, V., Poncet, M., & Little, E. R. (2002). Smoking and its correlates among preadolescent children in France. *Preventive Medicine*, 34(2), 226-234. <https://doi.org/10.1006/pmed.2001.0980>

- Schüler, J., Wolff, W., & Dettmers, C. (2019). Exercise in multiple sclerosis: Knowing is not enough-The crucial role of intention formation and intention realization. *Neurology and Therapy*, 8(1), 5-11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40120-019-0136-1>
- Schwarz, S., & Leweling, H. (2005). Multiple sclerosis and nutrition. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 11(1), 24-32. <https://doi.org/10.1191/1352458505ms1119oa>
- Segal, J., & Simkins, J. (1996). *Helping children with ill or disabled parents: A guide for parents and professionals*. Readers Digest.
- Shilts, M. K., Horowitz, M., Townsend, M. S., Shilts, M. K., Horowitz, M., & Townsend, M. S. (2004). An innovative approach to goal setting for adolescents: guided goal setting. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 36(3), 155. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s1499-4046\(06\)60153-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s1499-4046(06)60153-x)
- Siebert, R. J., & Abernethy, D. A. (2005). Depression in multiple sclerosis: a review. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 76(4), 469-475. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp.2004.054635>
- Smith, S. J., & Young, C. A. (2000). The role of affect on the perception of disability in multiple sclerosis. *Clinical Rehabilitation*, 14, 50-4. <https://doi.org/10.1191/026921500676724210>
- Sommerlad, A., Price, G., & Trip, A. (2014). Management of neuropsychiatric symptoms in multiple sclerosis. *Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry*, 18(2), 14- 19. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pnp.324>
- Staffileno, B. A., Minnick, A., Coke, L. A., & Hollenberg, S. M. (2007). Blood pressure responses to lifestyle physical activity among young, hypertension-prone African-American women. *The Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 22(2), 107-117. <https://doi.org/10.1097/00005082-200703000-00007>
- Stroud, N. M., & Minahan, C. L. (2009). The impact of regular physical activity on fatigue, depression and quality of life in persons with multiple sclerosis. *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes*, 7, 68. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1477-7525-7-68>
- Stuifbergen, A. K., & Becker, H. (2001). Health promotion practices in women with multiple sclerosis: increasing quality and years of healthy life. *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America*, 12(1), 9-22. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1047-9651\(18\)30081-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1047-9651(18)30081-0)

- Swank, R. L., & Grimsgaard, A. (1988). Multiple sclerosis: the lipid relationship. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 48(6), 1387-1393. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/48.6.1387>
- Swann, C., Rosenbaum, S., Lawrence, A., Vella, S.A., McEwan, D., & Ekkekakis, P. (2021). Updating goal-setting theory in physical activity promotion: a critical conceptual review. *Health Psychology Review*, 15(1), 34-50. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2019.1706616>
- Tallner, A., Waschbisch, A., Hentschke, C., Pfeifer, K., & Mäurer, M. (2015). Mental health in multiple sclerosis patients without limitation of physical function: The role of physical activity. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 16(7), 14901-14911. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms160714901>
- Taylor, A., Katomeri, M., & Ussher, M. (2005). Effects of walking on cigarette cravings and affect in the context of Nesbitt's paradox and the circumplex model. *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*, 28, 18-31. <https://doi.org/10.1123/jsep.28.1.18>
- Theodorakis, Y., Natsis, P., Papaioannou, A., & Goudas, M. (2003). Greek students' attitudes toward physical activity and health-related behavior. *Psychological Reports*, 92(1), 25-283. <https://doi.org/10.2466/pr0.2003.92.1.275>
- Theofilou, P. (2013). Sociodemographic and clinical determinants of quality of life and health representations in Greek Patients with multiple sclerosis. *Europe's Journal of Psychology*, 9, 33-50. <https://doi.org/10.5964/ejop.v9i1.387>
- Thorsen, L., Dahl, A. A., Skovlund, E., Hornslien, K., & Fossa, S. D. (2007). Effectiveness after 1 year of a short-term physical activity intervention on cardiorespiratory fitness in cancer patients. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 25(10), 1301-1302. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2007.10.6682>
- Thyrian, J. R., Hanke, M., Hannöver, W., Grempler, J., Röske, K., Fusch, C., & John, U. (2005). Tabakrauchexposition in der Wohnung und stationäre Behandlungen von Kindern unter 5 Jahren in Deutschland [Exposure to tobacco smoke (passive smoking) in the home and inpatient treatment of children under the age of 5 years in Germany]. *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*, 130(19), 1189-1194. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-2005-868699>
- Tomassini, V., Onesti, E. & Mainero, C. (2005). Sex hormones modulate brain damage in multiple sclerosis: MRI evidence. *Journal of Neurology and Psychiatry*, 76, 272-275. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/jnnp.2003.033324>

- Trost, S. G., Owen, N., Bauman, A. E., Sallis, J. F., & Brown, W. (2002). Correlates of adults' participation in physical activity: review and update. *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, *34*(12), 1996-2001.
- Turner, A. P., Hartoonian, N., Maynard, C., Leipertz, S. L., & Haselkorn, J. K. (2015). Smoking and physical activity: examining health behaviors and 15-year mortality among individuals with multiple sclerosis. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *96*(3), 402-409. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2014.10.014>
- United Nations. (1997). *Glossary of Environment Statistics, Studies in Methods*, Series F, No. 67, United Nations, New York.
- Vaillant, G., Schnurr, P., Baro, J. & Gerder, P. (1991). A prospective study of the effects of cigarette smoking and alcohol abuse on mortality. *Journal of General International Medicine*, *6*, 822-829.
- Vozikis, A. & Sotiropoulou, E. (2012). Multiple sclerosis in Greece: An analysis of out-of-pocket payments. *Archives of Hellenic Medicine*, *29*(4), 448-453.
- Wang, J. L., Reimer, M. A, Metz, L. K. & Patten, S. B. (2000). Major depression and quality of life in individuals with multiple sclerosis. *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine*, *30*(4), 309-317. <https://doi.org/10.2190/PGWT-UXJ0-7UEH-LGRY>
- Wang, Y., Sun, P., wang, Q., Trinkans, K., & Schmidt, R. (2015). Differentiation and quantification of inflammation, demyelination and axon injury or loss in multiple sclerosis, *The Brain*, *138*(5), 1223-1238. <https://doi.org/10.1093/brain/awv046>
- Ware, Jr, J. E., & Sherbourne, C. D. (1992). The MOS 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36): I. Conceptual framework and item selection. *Medical Care*, *30*(6), 473-483.
- Wens, I., Dalgas, U., Vandenabeele, F., Verboven, K., Hansen, D., Deckx, N., Cools, N., & Eijnde, B. O. (2017). High intensity aerobic and resistance exercise can improve glucose tolerance in persons with multiple sclerosis: A randomized controlled trial. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, *96*(3), 161-166. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PHM.0000000000000563>
- Wilson, P., Mack, D., & Grattan, K. (2008). Understanding motivation for exercise: a self-determination theory perspective. *Canadian Psychology*, *49*(3). <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0012762>

- Wilson, D. B., Smith, B. N., Speizer, I. S., Bean, M. K., Mitchell, K. S., Urguy, L. S. & Fries, E. A. (2005). Differences in food intake and exercise by smoking status in adolescents. *Preventive Medicine*, 40, 872-879. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2004.10.005>
- Williams, S. L., & French, D. P. (2011). What are the most effective intervention techniques for changing physical activity self-efficacy and physical activity behaviour-and are they the same? *Health Education Research*, 26(2), 308-322. <https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyr005>
- Wingerchuk, D. M. (2011). Environmental factors in multiple sclerosis: Epstein-Barr virus, vitamin D, and cigarette smoking. *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, 78(2), 221-230. <https://doi.org/10.1002/msj.20240>
- Wood, B., Van Der Mei, I. A. F., Ponsonby, A. L., Pittas, F., Quinn, S., Dwyer, T., & Taylor, B. V. (2013). Prevalence and concurrence of anxiety, depression and fatigue over time in multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 19(2), 217-224. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458512450351>
- World Health Organization. (1999). *International consultation on ETS and Child Health*. http://www.who.int/tobacco/health_impact/youth/ets/en/print.html
- World Health Organization. (2003). *Why Move for Health*. <http://www.who.int/hpr/prosactiv/docs/Healthanddevelopment.html>
- World Health Organization. (2005). *The European health report 2005: public Health action for healthier children and populations*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/341316>
- World Health Organization. (2008). *Atlas: Multiple Sclerosis resources in the world*. Switzerland: WHO Press.
- World Health Organization. (2013). *Global tuberculosis report 2013*. World health organization.
- Yates, T., Khunti, K., Bull, F., Gorely, T., & Davies, M. J. (2007). The role of physical activity in the management of impaired glucose tolerance: a systematic review. *Diabetologia*, 50, 1116-1126.
- Ysrraelit, M. C., Fiol, M. P., Gaitán, M. I., & Correale, J. (2018). Quality of life assessment in multiple sclerosis: Different perception between patients and neurologists. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 8, 729. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2017.00729>

Zigmond, A. S. & Snaith, R. P. (1983). The hospital anxiety and depression scale. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 67(6), 361-370. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0447.1983.tb09716.x>

Zorzon, M., de Masi, R. & Nasuelli, D. (2001). Depression and anxiety in multiple sclerosis. A clinical and MRI study in 95 subjects. *Journal Neurology*, 248, 416-421.

, . (1998). μ
 4 :
 - (. 143-148). 21-22 μ ,

, . (2000). μ (),
 μ μ μ (.
 27-72).

, . (2012). μ
 : (μ). μ
 , .

, .. , .. & μ , . (2005). μ ,
 1 : . *Inquiries in Sport & Physical Education*, 3(3),
 225-238.

, .. μ , .. , .. & , . (2008).
 μ $\mu\mu$ « , μ μ »
 μ μ μ , μ .
 & μ , 6(2), 181-194.

, . & . (2005). μ , 2 :
 μ μ μ μ , 3, 239-248.
 , .. , .. , .. & , . (2008).
 μ μ . 10

, & μ , . (2008). μ
 μ
 , 25, 720-728.

, . (2021). :

, . (2002). μ .
6
, .
, (1998). μ μ .
4 :
- , .
, . (2013).
. μ . μ .
, . (2004). (, ,
, μ).
. μ IV (12-153). :
. μ , .. , .. & , . (2000). μ
μ . ,
2, 23-33.
, . (2012). μ μ
μ μ μ .
μ , 10(2), 80-90.
, .. & , . (2002). .
6
, .
, M., & , E. (2006). μ
. , 45(2), 207-214.
, .. , .. & , . (2016).
μ :
μ μ 2000-2015.
μ , 9(1), 17-29.
, . . (2007).
μ μ . , 24, 6-18.
, . . (2006). μ
. μ , μ
.

μ μ

:

μ

μ

μ : , , , email: theodorakis@pe.uth.gr, : 24310-47001.

: , email: ankarageorgou@yahoo.gr; . 6973825136.

1.

μμ

μ

μ

μ

,

μ

μ

μ

2.

1

(

μ

)

μ

μ

,

μ

μ

μ

μμ

.

μ

μ

μ

55-60%

μ

μ

2

μ

3

μ

(

μ

)

μ

4

μ

5

μ

.

,

μ

20

μ

30

μ

60

μ

90

μ

μμ

.

μ

μμ

,

μ

,

μμ

μ

μ

,

μ

8

μ

.

3.

,

μ

μ

μ

.

μ

μ

4.

μ

μμ

μ

,

μ

μ

μ

μ

μ

,

μ

μ , μ
.

5. μ μ - μ μ μ μ
μμ μ , μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ μ μ μ

6.

μ μ μ

7.

μμ μ μ μ μ μ μ

8.

μμ
μ μ : _/_/_
μ μ
μμ

μ μ

μ

μ , μ μ μ
!! μ μ μ μ μ
μ μ μ !!!

μ

3

8			
1	1	20	μ ,
	2	20	, / μ
	3	20	,
2	1	20	μ μ / μ
	2	20	
	3	20	
3	1	30	
	2	30	
	3	30	
	4	30	
4	1	40	
	2	40	
	3	40	
	4	40	
5	1	40	
	2	40	
	3	40	
	4	40	
6	1	50	
	2	50	
	3	50	
	4	50	
	5	50	
7	1	60	
	2	60	
	3	60	
	4	60	
	5	60	
8	1	70	
	2	70	
	3	70	
	4	70	
	5	70	

/ μ μ

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(μ / μ /) :/...../

: ^a : ^a

EDSS.....

1.

μ μ -

2. : μ ;

3. : μ ;

μ μ ;

μ ;

.....

.....

;

.....

μ μ , μ μ μ (μ μ μ)

μ μ), μ μ (μ μ μ)

μ 15 , μ - μ - , ; (15).

) _____ - (. . μ ,

μ _____ , μ _____ , μ _____) _____

) μ _____ - (. . μ , _____ ,

_____ , _____ , μ _____ , _____) _____

) _____ - (. . , , μ ,
 μ , , μ , ,) . | _____ |

μ μ ... _____
 μ ... _____
 ... _____

μ μ
 . v . v v μ μ o / v v v
 , o μ v v o v o μ

SF36

1. , :

2. μ μ , μ
 μμ ;

3. ο ο v ο v ο v v v
 μ v μ v μ . v v v ,
 ο ; vv , ο;

	,μ ο ο	,μ ο ο	, vμ ο ο
. ο μο, μ v v μ v v, μμ μ	~	~	~
. μ v μ v v ο , ο μομ v ο ,ο ο v ο v	~	~	~
. v v μ v v ο	~	~	~
. μ _____	~	~	~
. μ _____ (2-3)	~	~	~
. μ , μ , μ	~	~	~
. μ _____ μ	~	~	~
. μ μ _____ μ _____	~	~	~
. μ _____ μ _____	~	~	~

.	μ	ν	ν	ν
---	---	---	---	---

4. $4 \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu$;

	NAI	OXI
.	ν	ν
.	ν	ν
.	ν	ν
.	ν	ν
.	ν	ν

5. $4 \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu$;

	NAI	OXI
.	ν	ν
.	ν	ν
.	ν	ν

6. $4 \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu$;

7. $4 \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu$;

8. $\mu \mu \mu \mu \mu \mu$;

μ	μ					
μ						

μ μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ μ
 μ μ μ μ μ μ

BAECKE

	;	μ		
--	---	-------	--	--

μ	1	2	3	4	5
$\mu /$	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5
$\mu \mu /$	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

μ	$\mu \mu ,$	...	5
	$\mu \mu$	...	4
	$\mu \mu$	...	3
	$\mu \mu$	...	2
	$\mu \mu$	...	1

μ	1	2	3	4	5
$\mu \mu$	1	2	3	4	5
μ	1	2	3	4	5
μ	1	2	3	4	5
μ	1	2	3	4	5
$/$	μ	$\mu ;$	> 45		5
			$30-45$		4

1)		/		μ			μ		.
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
2)		/		μ					
	μ	;							
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
3)		/		μ					
μ				;					
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
4)		μ	μ	/	μ				
			μ		;				
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
5)		/		μ					
μ		μ	;						
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
6)		/			μ	μ		μ	
		;						μ	μ
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
7)		/		μ				μ	μ
	μ	μ			;				

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8) μ_3 / μ_4 ; μ_5 μ_{10}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9) ; μ_5 μ_{10}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10) ; μ_5 μ_8 μ_{10}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11) ; μ_5 μ_{10}

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

12)) μ_3 / μ_4 (μ_5 , μ_7); (μ_8 , μ_{10})

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

13) , μ_3 / μ_4 ; μ_5 3 μ_8 (μ_{10} , μ_{11})

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

μ μ μ .	
μ ?	
?	
μ	5 () 6-30 () 31-60 () 60 ()
(. . , μ , μ , .)	() ()
() μ	() ()
μ	10 () 11-20 () 21-30 () 31 ()
	() ()
μ μ μ	() ()

$$\mu \quad \mu'$$

1. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} / \frac{\mu}{\mu} / \frac{\mu}{\mu} / \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () ()
2. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
3. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () () () ()
4. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
5. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
6. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
7. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
8. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
9. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
10. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
11. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
12. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
13. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()
14. $\frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu} \frac{\mu}{\mu}$
() () () () () () () ()



Report

Comparative Study of Individuals with and Without Multiple Sclerosis: Overall Profile of Quality of Life, Exercise, Health Behaviors

Anastasia Karageorgou^{1,*}, Dimitrios Kokaridas¹, Yiannis Theodorakis¹, Sergios Mousiolis², Asterios Patsiaouras¹, Marios Goudas¹

¹Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Trikala, Greece

²Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, University of Thessaly, Larisa, Greece

Email address:

ankarageorgou@yahoo.gr (A. Karageorgou)

*Corresponding author

To cite this article:

Anastasia Karageorgou, Dimitrios Kokaridas, Yiannis Theodorakis, Sergios Mousiolis, Asterios Patsiaouras, Marios Goudas. Comparative Study of Individuals with and Without Multiple Sclerosis: Overall Profile of Quality of Life, Exercise, Health Behaviors. *International Journal of Sports Science and Physical Education*. Vol. 3, No. 4, 2018, pp. 55-61. doi: 10.11648/j.ijsspe.20180304.12

Received: November 16, 2018; **Accepted:** December 8, 2018; **Published:** January 16, 2019

Abstract: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients differ with healthy populations in quality of life parameters, physical activity participation and health behaviors. However, no research has been conducted yet comparing such differences, outlining an overall profile. The purpose of this study was to examine and compare the profile of Greek MS patients with healthy individuals, as regards to the quality of life, physical activity involvement, adoption of health behaviors, and levels of depression and anxiety. The sample consisted of 26 MS patients and 90 healthy individuals overall 116 participants. Instruments used included the GLTE Questionnaire, habitual physical activity questionnaire, the SF 36, the Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, the Baecke and the Nutritional Behaviors questionnaire. T-test for independent variables was used to locate differences between individuals with or without MS and according to gender. Significance level was set at $p < .05$. The results showed MS patients as choosing light physical activity (PA) levels compared to healthy participants choosing moderate levels of PA. Healthy individuals also achieved higher scores in leisure time, sport and total physical activity index, exhibiting lower levels of anxiety and depression and better perceived quality of life compared to patients with MS. The profile of MS patients was associated with light PA, lower perceived quality of life, higher anxiety and depression as compared to healthy individuals. Future suggestions were made to examine application of exercise programs and their effect on psychological parameters of individuals with and without MS.

Keywords: Physical Activity, Psychological Parameters, Multiple Sclerosis

1. Introduction

Multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic inflammatory demyelinating disease, is considered the third most common cause of serious disability [1] and one of the most representative and frequent neuromuscular conditions [2] characterized by degeneration of the central nervous system with various symptoms and unpredictable alternations of recession and aggravation periods. In Greece, the number of people affected ranges up to 7,000 people, with 27 years

corresponding to the average age of appearance and women exhibiting a higher incidence of the disease [3, 4].

MS seriously affects nerve conduction of both motor and sensory nerves, causing varying degrees of disability related with motion and sensation. During the acute phase of the disease, the nerve conduction becomes slower or more obstructed causing muscle weakness, loss of movement, instability, blurred vision or diplopia, speech disorders, fatigue, and in more severe situations partial or complete paralysis [5].

The severity of MS symptoms varies greatly from person to

person depending on which nerves are affected and how many "attacks" of the disease the person has suffered during his life, making MS a purely personal issue experienced by each patient differently [6]. In general, MS sufferers may experience four different states progression of the disease, which may be mild, moderate or severe, depending on the causing symptoms [7], that in turn affect mental and physical state of patients [8] and lead to family dependence and a continuous decrease of their quality of life [9, 10].

In addition to psychosocial factors, MS patients often present sleeping problems, lack of interest, eating disorders and suicidal ideation at some point in their lives [11]. As myelin and white matter areas of the brain that are responsible for emotional expression are destroyed [12], these symptoms are probably due to the disease itself. Furthermore, MS patients experience intense anxiety due to the threat imposed by the disease, with stress symptoms influenced either by a sense of fear, lack of social support and different residential placement [13]. These negative feelings affect and in turn aggravate relative symptoms. According to Tsungou, Tzinalis & Bellali, knowing and accepting such symptoms is only a part of proper disease treatment that could also include physical activity and a balance diet as additional means to provide important support to MS patients [1].

Indeed, recent research has shown that an organized, systematic and well targeted form of exercise helps MS patients to improve their mood state [14], quality of life and functionality level [15, 16] and to reduce fatigue [17], compared to patients who do not exercise [15]. According to Garopoulou, MS patients is important to exercise frequently so as to maintain or improve their health condition and socialization, increase their energy and resistance to the disease and reduce rehabilitation costs [18].

Smoking has also linked with environmental factors and MS occurrence [19], reported that smokers are more likely to develop MS than non-smokers, while in a research confirmed smoking as a serious risk factor for MS appearance [20]. However, studies have not yet been conducted to examine the effect of diet and smoking on the quality of life of MS patients.

In Greece, studies so far have focused on examining the individual factors that shape the profile of MS patients [21], noted that MS patients feel generally exhausted and face difficulties in their daily activities, exhibiting emotional instability, voraciousness, irritability or even mental illness mainly in the form of manic depression. All these psychological reactions cause dissatisfaction especially in the case of patients with high intellectual awareness who often appear pessimistic and unable to set goals in life [22].

As regards to the quality of life of MS patients, Theofilou identified female gender, old age, married life, low education and most years of treatment as the main factors associated with better mental health and better quality of life [23]. Researchers found that marital status and place of residence are also factors that affect cognitive functioning, anxiety, physical health and general quality of life of MS patients [13]. In addition, since the decline in cognitive function and retrospective memory affects quality of life regardless of

depression and the severity of MS [24], improving quality of life and slowing the progression of the disease can be achieved by adopting healthy eating habits [25].

However, reviewing the literature it seems that no research has been conducted yet comparing MS patients with healthy populations in terms of participation in physical activity and adoption of appropriate health behaviors, outlining an overall profile of Greek MS patients. The recording of knowledge and attitudes of MS patients especially when compared with those with no MS concerning their activity during leisure time and the extent to which they adopt a healthy lifestyle, represents the first systematic attempt to create a comprehensive picture of habits prior implementing interventional health, diet and exercise programs in Greek MS patients, which in itself is a strong argument of the research importance.

The purpose of this study was to examine and compare the profile of Greek MS patients with healthy individuals, as regards to the quality of life, physical activity involvement, adoption of health behaviors, and levels of depression and anxiety. This research is in fact the first step of a doctoral study aiming to examine and compare the effect of exercise on psychological parameters of trainees with and without MS, after first outlining an overall profile of all participants so as to create a fixed point of reference prior exercise intervention.

2. Method

2.1. Sample

The sample consisted of 26 MS patients (8 men, 18 women) and 90 healthy individuals (26 men, 64 women), overall 116 participants coming from the wider Thessaly region who have agreed to participate voluntarily. Data collection date was set at 15/03/17. MS individuals were also members of the Larissa MS club as well as patients of the General University Hospital of Larissa under close medical supervision and medication. All patients had confirmed diagnosis of MS and did not have any accompanying problems that would exclude them from participating in exercise, as evaluated by a neurologist and ranked in the EDSS range from 0 to 4 (fully ambulatory without assistance).

2.2. Procedure

The participants were initially informed about the purpose, the process and the voluntary basis of the study and they were ensured that all questionnaires were confidential and anonymous. Researchers were present during their completion to answer any questions posed by participants, without otherwise being involved during the process. Prior completion of questionnaires, the study and its procedures was evaluated and approved by the DPESS University of Thessaly Ethics Committee Board (approval number: 1-5/5-10-2016).

2.3. Instruments

The questionnaires administered to all individuals with and without MS for research purposes, were:

- i) The Godin Leisure-Time Exercise Questionnaire [26] a

self-explanatory and brief four item query, measuring (light, moderate or strenuous) intensity of weekly leisure-time exercise habits, as used in the study of Theodorakis & Hassandra [27].

- ii) The Baecke [28] habitual physical activity questionnaire, as previously used by Theodoropoulos, Kartelliotis, Gelada & Nasis [29] and Blatsis [30], that asks questions and provides indexes regarding occupational, leisure and sport activities, based on frequency and perceived intensity of exercise during the last month.
- iii) The Greek version [31] of SF-36 quality of life questionnaire [32], a self-assessment tool designed to examine individual's perceptions regarding quality of life in relation to eight different areas, that is, physical functioning, role limitations due to physical problems, bodily pain, general health, social functioning, energy/vitality, role limitations due to emotional problems and mental health. These 8 domains are grouped into two main areas of physical and mental component scores, with higher values indicating a higher quality of life.
- iv) The "Nutritional Behaviors" questionnaire [33] that examines the extent to which the patient feels confident enough to replace unhealthy eating habits with healthy ones. The responses of the 13 questions constituting a single factor are given at a 10-degree Likert scale, ranging from (1) not at all confident to (10) very confident.
- v) The Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence [34], a standard instrument for assessing the intensity of physical addiction to nicotine (very low to very high) per day, with six items evaluating the quantity of cigarette consumption, the compulsion to use and dependence.
- vi) The Greek version [35] of the hospital anxiety and depression scale [36], a reliable and easy to use instrument for detecting states of depression and anxiety and measuring severity of emotional disorder in patients who may need additional psychological evaluation and support.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using the 19.00 SPSS version and included t test for independent variables to locate differences between individuals with or without MS and according to gender. Significance level was set at $p < .05$. The questionnaires used in this study had all acceptable psychometric characteristics.

3. Results

As regards to the level of physical activity (PA) between individuals with and without MS, statistically significant differences were observed with MS patients choosing light physical activity levels compared to healthy participants choosing moderate levels of PA. Similarly significant differences were also observed for each gender separately

(male - female) with and without MS (Table 1).

Table 1. Physical activity level of individuals with and without MS.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
Exercise Intensity						
Total						
Healthy	90	2.1	.90			
MS	26	3.08	.63	-5.17	114	.000
Male						
Healthy	26	2.04	.87			
MS	8	3.25	.46	-3.75	32	.001
Female						
Healthy	64	2.13	.92			
MS	18	3.00	.69	-3.76	80	.000

In relation to depression and anxiety experienced, statistically significant differences were observed between men with and without MS, with male patients experiencing more intense anxiety and depression symptoms compared to healthy ones, whereas no differences were observed in women (Table 2).

Table 2. Anxiety and depression on individuals with and without MS.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
Anxiety						
Total						
Healthy	90	5.77	3.37			
MS	26	7.66	4.68	-2.29	114	.012
Depression						
Total						
Healthy	90	4.80	3.20			
MS	26	6.92	3.26	-2.97	114	.002
Anxiety						
Male						
Healthy	26	4.85	4.03			
MS	8	10.13	4.73	-3.12	32	.002
Female						
Healthy	64	6.14	3.02			
MS	18	6.56	4.34	-.47	80	.643
Depression						
Male						
Healthy	26	4.42	4.05			
MS	8	9.13	2.17	-3.13	32	.002
Female						
Healthy	64	4.95	2.81			
MS	18	5.95	3.23	-1.28	80	.102

As for quality of life, healthy participants demonstrated higher score than MS patients in their perceptions regarding quality of life in the two main areas of physical and psychological health as expressed by physical functioning, role physical, general health, vitality, social functioning, role emotional and mental health. MS patients exhibited higher values only in the 'negative' factor of bodily pain (Table 3).

Table 3. Quality of life between individuals with and without MS.

Variable	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
Role physical					
Healthy	7.27	1.07			
MS	5.58	1.58	6.329	114	.000
General Health					
Healthy	18.31	3.27			
MS	12.85	3.26	7.519	114	.000

Variable	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
Vitality					
Healthy	16.95	3.85			
MS	12.31	3.50	5.514	114	.000
Mental health					
Healthy	22.52	4.37			
MS	19.08	4.80	3.463	114	.001
Physical Functioning					
Healthy	27.02	2.82	12.70		
MS	17.50	4.84	2	114	.000
Role emotional					
Healthy	5.18	1.16			
MS	4.69	1.12	1.896	114	.030
Bodily pain					
Healthy	3.21	1.32			
MS	5.27	2.09	-6.073	114	.000
Social Functioning					
Healthy	8.38	2.23			
MS	6.23	1.99	4.423	114	.000
Physical Health					
Healthy	55.81	5.33	11.64		
MS	41.19	6.63	2	114	.000
Psychological Health					
Healthy	53.36	10.22			
MS	42.31	9.02	4.977	114	.000

Statistically significant differences were also observed in relation to index related to participation in leisure and sport activities and total PA between people with and without MS, with healthy individuals having exhibiting higher score, whereas no differences on occupational PA index were noted (Table 4).

Table 4. PA Index during last month between participants with ($N = 26$) and without ($N = 90$) MS.

Variable	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
Leisure Index					
Healthy	2.96	.76			
MS	1.94	.67	6.178	114	.000
Sport Index					
Healthy	2.34	.72			
MS	1.55	.30	5.508	114	.000
Total PA					
Healthy	7.67	1.54			
MS	5.40	1.10	7.011	114	.000

Furthermore, healthy individuals portrayed higher scores in educational level as compared to participants with MS with similar statistically significant differences observed between men and women separately, with and without MS (Table 5). Finally, no statistically significant differences were observed between participants with and without MS, as regards to smoking habits and their intention to adopt a healthier diet in the future.

Table 5. Educational level differences between participants with and without MS.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
Educational Level						
Total						
Healthy	90	2.79	.44			
MS	26	2.23	.77	4.76	114	.001
Male						
Healthy	26	2.81	.40	2.53	32	.009

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T	Df	P
MS	8	2.25	.89			
Female						
Healthy	64	2.78	.45			
MS	18	2.22	.73	3.99	80	.000

4. Discussion

The purpose of the study was to examine and compare quality of life, physical activity and adoption of health behaviors between individuals with and without MS, in an effort to outline an overall profile of MS patients and to provide a fixed point of reference of these patients prior exercise intervention.

As a first finding, MS patients seemed to choose light physical activities compared to moderate intensity activities selected by people without MS, probably due to muscle weakness, fatigue, loss of movement, and instability that MS patients usually experience, resulting in a more 'careful' approach to participate in exercise or recreation during leisure time [5]. Common barriers related to less participation in exercise apart from the health factors often referred to by MS patients, concern environmental factors such as lack of relative infrastructure available to people with disabilities, type of exercise and support by peers, as well as psychological parameters related to feelings of internal disruption, concern and fear of loss of control [37].

The negative physiological effect of the disease and the higher physical pain experienced by people with MS along with their lower comparative educational attainment, did not, however, seem to have any impact on their physical effort during work, as their occupation index was equivalent with the effort put by participants without MS. This best illustrates the ongoing effort and professional zeal of people with MS to cope with their working role, despite the limitations often imposed by the disease.

Overall, participants without MS in this study have shown a more positive attitude to their quality of life as this was expressed through their more optimistic perception concerning their general health and vitality, functionality level, social function, psychological well-being and their role in all aspects of their everyday life.

Previous studies have similarly reported people with MS as having lower perceived quality of life compared to healthy populations [38, 39] with many factors contributing to this result. For example, the lower educational level of people with MS compared to people without MS reported in this study, has been previously found to be a factor influencing perceived quality of life, since people with a higher level of education tend to exhibit a stronger perceived ability to cope with the disease and its challenges [8, 40, 41] much as the lack of interest in life caused by the disease [11].

In research efforts to understand and record behavioral, psychological, and social factors, exercise has been found to indirectly and positively affect the quality of life of MS patients, through the reduction of depression, anxiety, pain and fatigue [42, 43] and the improvement of perceived

self-efficacy and disease control [16]. The fact that MS patients in this study tended to choose light levels of physical activity compared to moderate exercise intensity selected by participants without MS, may be indirectly related to the lowest perceived quality of life also reported by this sample of MS patients.

The purpose of the research was, however, to outline an overall profile of people with MS and not to examine the extent in which participation in exercise affects their perceived quality of life. However, the results of the research further highlight the need for the forthcoming doctoral study to examine the effect of an intervention exercise program on psychological parameters of MS participants.

Anxiety, depression and fatigue are common features in MS with a tendency to interfere with each other [44]. Exercise can be a promising method either to prevent depression in the future or to reliably reduce the already existing symptoms of depression and anxiety that MS patients often experience [45], although more future research is needed for definitive conclusions [46]. In this sample, the difference observed between depression and anxiety levels among people with and without MS is due to the corresponding statistically significant difference detected solely between men with and without MS, and not between women with and without MS. This finding is in agreement with Casetta [47] study examining gender differences in health-related quality of life in multiple sclerosis. The results showed that the impact of disability was higher for men than women especially in relation to parameters reflecting mental health and emotional well being.

Furthermore, no differences were observed between the participants with and without MS of this study, regarding smoking habits and their intention to adopt a healthier diet in the future probably due to the lack of information on nutrition and smoking issues and their impact on the disease, an issue that is internationally lacking scientific integration, both as regards the recording of patient habits and complete nutrition suggestions [48]. Only recently, researcher [49] showed that MS progression is consistently associated with low vitamin D diet while smoking is associated with a rapid increase in the degree of disability, even mortality, caused by the disease [50].

The results of the study highlight the essential need for future researches using larger samples to examine and compare the overall effect of factors such as exercise, nutrition and smoking cessation on the improvement of physical and psychological health parameters and the perceived quality of life of patients with MS.

5. Conclusion

The examination and comparison of MS patients with healthy individuals as regards to the physical activity involvement, adoption of health behaviors, and levels of depression and anxiety constitutes a necessity in the quality of life determination and creation of a comprehensive picture of habits concerning diet and exercise programs for both

populations, especially when outlining an overall profile of Greek individuals with and without MS for the first time. Result differences illustrated in this study, showing MS patients as choosing light physical activity levels compared to healthy participants who choose moderate levels of PA and healthy individuals achieving higher scores in leisure time, sport and total physical activity with lower levels of anxiety and depression and better perceived quality of life compared to patients with MS, exhibit the need to examine future application of modified exercise programs adapted according to the needs of MS patients. An organized, systematic and well targeted form of exercise will help MS patients to improve their perceived quality of life, mood state and functionality level.

References

- [1] Tsungou, G., Tzinalis, A. and Bellali, Th. (2016) Psychosocial dimensions and quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis: Review of quantitative and qualitative studies for the period 2000-2015.
- [2] Goodin, D. S., et al. (2002). Disease modifying therapies in multiple sclerosis: Report of the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*, 58, 169 - 178.
- [3] Browne, P., Chandraratna, D., Angood, C., Tremlett, H., Baker, C., Taylor, B. V. and Thompson, A. J. (2014). Atlas of Multiple Sclerosis 2013: A growing global problem with widespread inequity. *Neurology*, 83 (11), 1022-1024.
- [4] Tomassini, V, Onesti, E and Mainero, C. (2005). Sex hormones modulate brain damage in multiple sclerosis: MRI evidence. *Journal of Neurology and Psychiatry* 76, 272-275.
- [5] Miller, D., et al. (2005). Clinically isolated syndromes suggestive of multiple sclerosis, Part 1: Natural history, pathogenesis, diagnosis and prognosis. *Lancet Neurol*, 4, 281.
- [6] Kokaridas, (2010). *Exercise and Disability: personalization, adaptations and integration prospects*. Thessaloniki: Kyriakidis Publications.
- [7] Hauser, S and Josephson, S. A (2013). Harrison. Clinical Neurology. Parisianou Publications.
- [8] Buhse, M., Banker, WM. and Clement, LM. (2014). Factors associated with health- related quality of life among older people with multiple sclerosis. *JMS Care*, 16, 10-19.
- [9] Kargarfard, M., Eetemadifar, M., Mehrabi, M., Maghzi, A. H. and Hayatbakhsh M. R. (2012). Fatigue, depression, and health-related quality of the life in patients with multiple sclerosis in Isfahan, Iran. *European Journal of Neurology* 19, 431-437.
- [10] Fruewald, S., Loeffler-Stastka, H., Eher, R., Saletu, B. and Baumhacki, U. (2008). Depression and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*, 104, 257-261.
- [11] Siegert, R. J. and Abernethy, D. A. (2005). Depression in multiple sclerosis: a review. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry*, 76 (4), 469-475.

- [12] Rickards, H. (2005). Women confronting the reality of multiple sclerosis: a qualitative model of self-healing. PhD Thesis, Department of Health Promotion and Education, University of Utah.
- [13] Makri, S. (2013). Quality of life management of patients with multiple sclerosis. MSc Thesis. University of Peloponnese.
- [14] Marck, C. H., Hadgkiss, E. J., Weiland, T. J., Van der Meer, D. M., Pereira, N. G. and Jelinek, G. A. (2014). Physical activity and associated levels of disability and quality of life in people with multiple sclerosis: a large international survey. *BMC neurology*, 14 (1), 143.
- [15] Romberg, A., Viranen, A. and Ruutiainen J. (2005). Long-time exercise improves functional impairment but not quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology*, 252, 839-845.
- [16] Motl, R. W. and Snook, E. M. (2008). Physical activity, self-efficacy, and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 35 (1), 111.
- [17] Dalgas, U., Stenager, E., Jakobsen, J., Petersen, T., Hansen, HJ., Knudsen, C., Overgaard, K. and Ingemann-Hansen, T. (2010). Fatigue, mood and quality of life improve in MS patients after progressive resistance training. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 16, (4), 480-490.
- [18] Garopoulou, B. (2012). Physical activity and quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis (case study). Doctoral thesis. Thessaloniki.
- [19] Belbasis, L., Bellou, V., Evangelou, E., Ioannidis, J. P., & Tzoulaki, I. (2015). Environmental risk factors and multiple sclerosis: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *The Lancet Neurology*, 14 (3), 263-273.
- [20] Salzer, J., Hallmans, G., Nyström, M., Stenlund, H., Wadell, G. and Sundström, P. (2013). Smoking as a risk factor for multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 19 (8), 1022-1027.
- [21] Kastania, T. and Tokmakidis, S. (2008). Exercise as a means of promoting functional capacity and quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Archives of Hellenic Medicine* 25: 720-728.
- [22] Polykandriotis, M. and Kyritsi, E. (2006). Quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis. *Nursing*, 45 (2), 207-214.
- [23] Theofilou, P. (2013). Sociodemographic and clinical determinants of quality of life and health representations in Greek Patients with multiple sclerosis. *Europe's Journal of Psychology*, 9, 33-50.
- [24] Samartzis, L., Gavala, E., Zoukow, Y., Aspiotis, A. and Thomaidis, T. (2014). Perceived cognitive decline in multiple sclerosis impacts quality of life independently of depression. *Rehabilitation Research and Practice*, 1-6.
- [25] Hadgkiss, EJ., Jelinek, GA., Weiland, TJ., Pereira, NG., Marck, CH. and van der Meer DM. (2015). The association of diet with quality of life, disability, and relapse rate in an international sample of people with multiple sclerosis. *Nutritional Neuroscience*, 18 (3), 125-136.
- [26] Godin, G. and Shephard, R. J. (1985). Psycho-social predictors of exercise intentions among spouses. *Canadian journal of applied sport sciences. Journal canadien des sciences appliquees au sport*, 10 (1), 36-43.
- [27] Theodorakis, G. and Xasandra, M. (2005). Smoking and exercise, Part 2: Differences between trainees and non-trainees. *Searches in Physical Education and Sports*, 3 (3), 239-248.
- [28] Baecke, J. A. H., Burema, J. and Frijters, J. E. R. (1982). A short questionnaire for the measurement of habitual physical activity in epidemiological studies. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 36, 936-942.
- [29] Theodoropoulos, E., Kartelliotis, K., Geladas, N. and Nassis, G. (2008). Physical activity and health-related quality of life. *Proceedings of the 10th Panhellenic Congress of Sports Psychology*.
- [30] Blatsis, P. (2012). The relationship between smoking and physical activity among adults following a sedentary life style. *Inquiries in Sport and Physical Education*, 10 (2), 80-90.
- [31] Anagnostopoulos, F., Niakas, D., & Pappa, E. (2005). Construct validation of the Greek SF-36 health survey. *Quality of Life Research*, 14 (8), 1959-1965.
- [32] Ware Jr, J. E. and Sherbourne, C. D. (1992). The MOS 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36): I. Conceptual framework and item selection. *Medical care*, 473-483.
- [33] Bebetos, E., Theodorakis, I., Laparidis, K and Chroni, S. (2000). Reliability and validity of Nutritional Behaviors questionnaire. *Sports Performance and Health*, 2, 191 – 203/
- [34] Heatherton, T., Kozlowski, L., Frecker, R. and Fagerstrom, K. (1991). The Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence: a revision of the Fagerstrom Tolerance Questionnaire. *British Journal of Addiction*, 86, 9, 1119-1127.
- [35] Michopoulos, I., Douzenis, A., Kalkavoura, C., Christodoulou, C., Miachalopoulou, P., Kal, emi, G., Fineti, K., Patapis, P., Protopapas, K. and Lykouras, L. (2008). Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS): validation in a Greek general hospital sample. *Annals of General Psychiatry*, 7, 1-5.
- [36] Zigmond, A. S. and Snaith, R. P. (1983). The hospital anxiety and depression scale. *Acta psychiatrica scandinavica*, 67 (6), 361-370.
- [37] Learmonth, Y. C. and Motl, R. W. (2016). Physical activity and exercise training in multiple sclerosis: a review and content analysis of qualitative research identifying perceived determinants and consequences. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 38 (13), 1227-1242.
- [38] Benito-León, J., Manuel Morales, J., Rivera-Navarro, J. and Mitchell, A. J. (2003). A review about the impact of multiple sclerosis on health-related quality of life. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 25 (23), 1291-1303.
- [39] Mitchell, A. J., Benito-León, J., González, J. M. M. and Rivera-Navarro, J. (2005). Quality of life and its assessment in multiple sclerosis: integrating physical and psychological components of wellbeing. *The Lancet Neurology*, 4 (9), 556-566.
- [40] Janzen, W., Turpin, K. V., Warren, S. A., Marrie, R. A. and Warren, K. G. (2013). Change in the health-related quality of life of multiple sclerosis patients over 5 years. *International journal of MS care*, 15 (1), 46-53.
- [41] Patti, F., Pozzilli, C., Montanari, E., Pappalardo, A., Piazza, L., Levi, A., Onesti, E. and Pesci, I. (2007). Effects of education level and employment status on HRQoL in early relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 13 (6), 783-791.

- [42] Motl, R. W. and McAuley, E. (2009). Pathways between physical activity and quality of life in adults with multiple sclerosis. *Health Psychology, 28* (6), 682.
- [43] Motl, R. W. and McAuley, E. (2014). Physical activity and health-related quality of life over time in adults with multiple sclerosis. *Rehabilitation Psychology, 59* (4), 415.
- [44] Wood, B., Van Der Mei, I. A. F., Ponsonby, A. L., Pittas, F., Quinn, S., Dwyer, T. and Taylor, B. V. (2013). Prevalence and concurrence of anxiety, depression and fatigue over time in multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal, 19* (2), 217-224.
- [45] Ensari, I., Motl, R. W. and Pilutti, L. A. (2014). Exercise training improves depressive symptoms in people with multiple sclerosis: results of a meta-analysis. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 76* (6), 465-471.
- [46] Dalgas, U., Stenager, E. and Sloth, M. (2014). The effect of exercise on depressive symptoms in multiple sclerosis based on a meta - analysis and critical review of the literature. *European Journal of Neurology, 22* (3), 443-e34.
- [47] Casetta, I., Trond, R., Nortvedt, MW., Economou, NT., De gennaro, R., Fazio, P., Cesnil, E., Govoni, V. and Granieri, E. (2009). Gender differences in health-related quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis, 15*, 1339-1346.
- [48] Esposito, S., Bonavita, S., Sparaco, M., Gallo, A., and Tedeschi, G. (2017). The role of diet in multiple sclerosis: A review. *Nutritional Neuroscience, 1-14*.
- [49] Hempel, S., Graham, G. D., Fu, N., Estrada, E., Chen, A. Y., Mlake-Lye, I. and Wallin, M. T. (2017). A systematic review of modifiable risk factors in the progression of multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal, 23* (4), 525-533.
- [50] Turner, A. P., Hartoonian, N., Maynard, C., Leipertz, S. L. and Haselkorn, J. K. (2015). Smoking and physical activity: examining health behaviors and 15-year mortality among individuals with multiple sclerosis. *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation, 96* (3), 402-409.



**THE EFFECT OF A COMBINED EXERCISE AND
GOAL SETTING PROGRAM ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVELS,
NUTRITIONAL HABITS AND SMOKING CESSATION OF
GREEK PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

**Anastasia Karageorgouⁱ,
Dimitrios Kokaridas,
Yiannis Theodorakis,
Marios Goudas,
Charalampos Krommidas,
Evangelia Christodoulou,
Sergios Mousiolis**

Department of Physical Education and Sport Science,
University of Thessaly,
Greece

Abstract:

Background. A healthy lifestyle is crucial for patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). **Objective.** The purpose of the study was to examine the effect of a combined exercise and goal-setting program of Greek patients with MS on increasing physical activity (PA) level, adopting healthier nutritional behaviors and reduce smoking. **Methods.** The sample consisted of 30 patients with multiple sclerosis, 15 men and 15 women, aged 23 to 65 years, randomly assigned into two equal (experiment and control) groups. The experiment group participated in an 8-week exercise program combined with nutrition and goal-setting strategies with a purpose to adopt and maintain a healthier lifestyle. The control group did not participate in any of the intervention procedures. Both groups completed -pre and post intervention- questionnaires measuring their leisure time PA, nutritional behaviors and smoking dependence. **Results.** The results showed higher rates of leisure time PA, improved eating habits and reduced smoking behaviors of experiment group participants following the 8-week intervention program compared to control group participants. **Conclusions.** Based on findings, further recommendations were made concerning PA levels, nutrition and smoking cessation of patients with multiple sclerosis.

Keywords: multiple sclerosis patients, exercise, goal setting, nutritional behavior, smoking

ⁱ Correspondence: email ankarageorgou@yahoo.gr

1. Introduction

Multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic inflammatory demyelinating disease characterized by degeneration of the Central Nervous System (CNS) with a variety of symptoms and unpredictable alternations of periods of remission and exacerbation, is considered as one of the most representative neuromuscular diseases that affects young adults and especially women (Kutzelnigg & Lassmann, 2014). MS severely affects the nerve conduction of both motor and sensory nerves causing various degrees of disabilities (Ortiz et al., 2013) associated with slow nerve conduction, muscle weakness, loss of joint function movement, instability, blurred vision or diplopia, speech disorders, fatigue, and in more severe cases partial or complete paralysis. The severity of the symptoms of the disease varies greatly from person to person depending on the progression of the disease and which nerves are affected, making multiple sclerosis a purely personal case that each patient experiences differently (Compston & Coles, 2008).

In addition to the medical treatment of MS, important factors in helping patients include the benefits of exercise participation and balanced diet. In fact, individual lifestyle related to fitness, the types of food consumed as well as smoking can even be linked to the onset of the disease (Pozuelo et al., 2014). The high consumption of saturated fatty acids of animal origin and the lower content of vitamin D lead to the prevalence of MS (Ascherio et al., 2014). Mechanisms associated with vitamin D and smoking may potentially increase the baseline risk of disease (Wingerchuk, 2011), with vitamin D having been shown by a number of studies to be of paramount importance as its intake is inversely proportional to the onset of the disease later in life (Mirzaei et al., 2011; Munger et al., 2011).

Furthermore, research has shown strong evidence that organized, individualized, and systematic exercise helps MS patients improve their level of functionality (Romberg et al., 2005; Molt et al., 2008) and reduce fatigue (Mark et al., 2014; Dalgas & Stenager, 2010). Lai et al. (2017) have also addressed the beneficial role of regular exercise on people with MS. Thus, exercise should be an integral part of the daily life of MS patients since it brings significant benefits. Exercise combined with nutrition also plays an important role in reducing or stopping smoking, a habit recognized as the main threat to human health responsible for most causes of death worldwide, has a strong relationship with environmental factors and MS, with smokers more likely to develop the disease than non-smokers (Salzer et al., 2013). Overall, smoking has been found to be one of the most reliable environmental factors for the occurrence of the disease (Belbasis et al., 2015).

Goal-setting is one of the most widely used and highly effective behavioral change strategies for promoting peoples' PA and helping them to adopt more health-related behaviors (McEwan et al., 2016; Pearson, 2012; Shilts et al., 2004; Swann et al., 2021). For example, in a meta-analysis of McEwan et al. (2016, p. 67) results showed "*a medium, positive effect of goal setting interventions in relation to PA behaviour*". Similarly, Lorencatto et al. (2016) found that goal-setting strategy helped adult smokers to increase their

smoking quit attempts. Based on the goal-setting theory (Locke & Latham, 2006) and the SMART principles (Brown et al., 2016; Lawlor & Hornyak, 2012; MacLeod, 2012), an effective goal should be personal, specific, measurable, achievable, challenging and time-bound. Also, a goal commitment and an action plan to achieve the intended goal are essential elements for the success of this behavioral change technique (Bailey, 2017; Locke & Latham, 2002).

The majority of international research so far, has examined separately the effect of exercise or nutrition or smoking cessation programs on MS patients (Farinotti et al., 2012; Motl & Gosney, 2007; Ramanujam et al., 2015; Riemann-Lorenz et al., 2016). Moreover, the number of intervention programs or cohort studies focusing on healthier eating habits or smoking cessation of patients with MS is very small worldwide (Farinotti et al., 2012; Ramanujam et al., 2015). Reviewing the literature, it seems that no other research on MS patients has incorporate within an exercise program the application of self-determined psychological techniques such as goal setting, aiming to promote the adoption of healthier behaviors concerning nutritional and smoking habits and increase physical activity. In other words, self-setting goals seem to increase the commitment towards exercise and individual's desire to adopt a healthier lifestyle (Saini & Lacroix, 2009), nevertheless, this has not yet been investigated in patients with multiple MS. Especially in Greece, research so far has focused solely on individual factors that compose the overall health profile of MS patients (Kastanias & Tokmakidis, 2008; Karageorgou et al., 2019) without examining the effect of combined intervention programs to shape healthier behaviors of patients with MS. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of a combined exercise and goal-setting program of Greek patients with MS on improving their leisure time physical activity and nutritional behaviors and reduce smoking.

2. Methods

2.1 Participants

The sample consisted of 30 MS patients, 15 men and 15 women ($N = 30$), aged 23 to 65 ($M = 38.70 \pm 9.53$ years) all members of the Hellenic Society for Multiple Sclerosis in the prefectures of Trikala and Magnesia and casual smokers. Following an initial briefing, all participants expressed their interest to participate in the study and signed a consent form ensuring voluntary participation in research and confidentiality of responses. Next, the participants were randomly assigned in two equal groups, that is, the experiment and the control group. The experiment group ($N = 15$) participated in the combined exercise, nutrition and goal-setting intervention program, whereas the control group ($N = 15$) did not participate in any of the research procedures.

2.2 Instruments

The questionnaires administered for research purposes to all individuals of both groups, included:

a. Physical activity

The Greek version (Theodorakis & Hassandra, 2005) of Godin Leisure-Time Exercise Questionnaire (Godin & Shephard, 1985), was used to measure the intensity of weekly leisure-time PA (light, moderate or vigorous) (e.g., *“How many times a week (for more than 15’) in your free time, did intense exercise - your heart beats fast (e.g., running, long distance jogging, football, basketball, swimming, cycling?)”*).

b. Nutritional behaviors

The Nutritional Behaviors Questionnaire (Bebetsos et al., 2000) that examines the extent to which the patient feels confident enough to replace unhealthy eating habits with healthy ones (e.g., *“How confident are you that you can eat your unsalted food?”*). The responses of the thirteen items constituting a single factor, are given at a 10-degree Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all confident) to 10 (very confident).

c. Smoking

The Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (Heatherton et al., 1991), checks patients' intensity (very low to very high) of physical addiction to nicotine per day and has been previously used in Greek population studies (e.g., Gratiou et al., 2012; Saridi et al., 2017). It consists of six items evaluating the quantity of cigarette consumption, the compulsion to use and dependence (e.g., *“How many cigarettes do you usually smoke per day?”*).

2.3 Procedure

The study and its procedures was evaluated and approved by the Ethics Committee Board of the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science at University of Thessaly (Ref. Number: 3-1/ 12-12-2018). Prior research commencing, all participants signed a consent form ensuring voluntary participation in research, confidentiality of responses and their free choice to drop out of the program anytime they wish to do so.

Next, participants were randomly assigned through a lottery process (1:1) into two equal groups, that is, an experiment group ($N = 15$) following an 8-weeks' combined program of exercise, nutrition and goal-setting and the control group ($N = 15$) that did not participate in any of the research procedures. As for the experiment group, the intervention program included an 8-week exercise program at a frequency of two to three times a week, with 20 to 30 minutes of each session that could be gradually increased to 60 to 90 minutes in the final weeks of the program based on goal setting procedures and mutual patients' choice, under the supervision of the researcher who was also an adapted physical education instructor. Furthermore, all experiment group participants were initially informed about the principles of the Mediterranean diet and the harmful health effects of smoking in a 30 minutes' session that was delivered by an independent, well-trained researcher prior program commencement.

In addition, each participant of the experiment group was informed and familiarized with self-regulated goal-setting strategies toward increasing their PA level. Every week, each individual had the opportunity to choose the place, the type, the intensity and the frequency of exercise he/she wanted to be involved and to set personal, specific, measurable, achievable, challenging, and time-bound exercise goals (“e.g., *Next week, my personal goal is to perform 30 minutes walking daily*”). Self-determined goals were also set for both the Mediterranean pyramid-based diet plan (e.g., “*Next week, my personal goal is not to drink soft drinks at all*” or “*Next week, my personal goal is to eat red meat only once*”) and smoking cessation (e.g., “*Next week, my personal goal is to smoke five cigarettes per day*”). After setting a personal goal for healthier behaviors in PA, nutrition and smoking, all individuals committed to implement their goal and set an action plan to achieve it. At the beginning of each meeting, the researcher was informed by each participant about the nutrition followed the previous days, exactly how many cigarettes each participant smoked and which delay techniques were used successfully, so as to reduce daily cigarettes’ intake according to mutual goals set at the beginning of each week. Then, the exercise session followed. At the end of each session, the researcher reminded each participant of the additional delay techniques they could use throughout the day every time they have a strong urge to smoke, such as a) take a sip of water slowly, b) take a deep breath and say the word ‘calm’, c) do something else, and d) delay lighting a cigarette for another 10 minutes. All the above information was recorded in the personal diary of each participant which was kept by the researcher as a detailed feedback of personal progress and effort made by each participant. Regarding individuals at the control group ($N = 15$), they did not participate in any of the intervention procedures.

The instruments were administered for completion prior and after the intervention program to all participants of both groups. During the completion of the surveys, a research staff was present in order to answer in any questions posed by participants, without otherwise being involved during the process.

2.4 Statistical analysis

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Statistics v26.0) was used for data analysis. Initially, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S) was used to verify normal distribution. Next, a two-way repeated measures ANOVA (2x2) was applied to locate possible differences in the examined variables between time (pre-post), group (experiment and control) and interaction between time and groups. In case normal distribution was violated, a Mann-Whitney U non-parametric test was used to assess possible differences between experiment and control group in post-intervention measures, while a Wilcoxon non-parametric test was contacted to examine possible differences between pre and post-intervention measurements within each group. The significance threshold was set at $p < .05$.

3. Results

3.1. Descriptive statistics and normal distribution

Descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation) and normal distribution of the examined variables in both measures (pre, post) are presented below (Table 1).

Table 1: Descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation) and normal distribution of the examined variables in pre and post intervention measures

Variables	Pre		Post	
	M ± SD	K-S	M ± SD	K-S
LPA	2.90 ± 4.63	1.650*	3.60 ± 5.37	1.428*
MPA	5.50 ± 6.87	1.762**	6.33 ± 6.42	1.486*
VPA	3.60 ± 8.39	2.553**	4.50 ± 11.02	2.511**
LTPA	12.00 ± 13.25	.998	14.43 ± 12.25	.739
BMI	26.80 ± 2.98	.881	26.60 ± 3.02	.489
Smoking	2.43 ± 2.42	1.514*	2.03 ± 2.20	1.397*
Nutrition	7.54 ± 1.37	.718	7.82 ± 1.27	.545

Notes: M = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; K-S = Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z test; LPA = Light Physical Activity; MPA = Moderate physical activity; VPA = Vigorous physical activity; LTPA = Leisure-time physical activity; * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

3.2 Differences between experiment and control groups on health behaviors (physical activity, smoking, nutrition) and Body Mass Index (BMI)

Two way ANOVAs with repeated measures revealed significant interactions between time and group on LTPA (Wilks' $\lambda = .852$, $F_{1,28} = 4.878$, $p < .05$, $\eta p^2 = .15$) and food consumption (Wilks' $\lambda = .779$, $F_{1,28} = 7.952$, $p < .01$, $\eta p^2 = .22$). Additional analysis of these interactions revealed significant differences on LTPA ($F_{1,28} = 6.800$, $p < .05$, $\eta p^2 = .20$) and food consumption ($F_{1,28} = 15.905$, $p < .001$, $\eta p^2 = .36$) between pre and post measures only for the participants of the experiment group following the intervention program, with significantly higher scores achieved in post measures (Table 2). Similarly, significant differences were found in LTPA between experiment and control group in post measures. Participants at the experiment group reported higher scores in LTPA compared to those in control group after the implementation of the intervention program (Table 2). In contrast, no significant interactions were noted between time and group on BMI (Wilks' $\lambda = .910$, $F_{1,28} = 2.761$, $p = .108$, $\eta p^2 = .09$).

Mann Whitney U test revealed no statistically significant differences on LPA post-intervention scores ($U = 92.50$, $p = .01$) between experiment and control group. Similarly, Wilcoxon test showed no significant differences on LPA between pre and post measures both for experiment group ($Z = -1.809$, $p = .70$) and control group ($Z = -1.000$, $p = .317$). As for MPA, Mann Whitney U test revealed statistically significant differences on post-intervention scores ($U = 41.50$, $p < .01$) between experiment and control group, with significantly higher scores achieved in post measure (Table 2). In contrast, Wilcoxon test

showed no significant differences on MPA between pre and post measures both for experiment group ($Z = -1.078, p = .281$) and control group ($Z = -.816, p = .414$).

Mann Whitney U test revealed no statistically significant differences on VPA post-intervention scores ($U = 80.50, p = .06$) between experiment and control group. Similarly, Wilcoxon test showed no significant differences on VPA between pre and post measures both for experiment group ($Z = -.552, p = .581$) and control group ($Z = -.000, p = 1.00$).

As for smoking, Mann Whitney U test revealed no statistically significant differences on post-intervention scores ($U = 91.50, p = .361$) between experiment and control group. In contrast, Wilcoxon test showed significant differences on smoking between pre and post measures only for experiment group ($Z = -2.414, p < .05$), with significantly lower scores achieved in post measure (Table 2).

Table 2: Differences between experiment and control group on health behaviors (physical activity, smoking, and nutrition)

Variables	Experiment group		Control group	
	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)
LPA	2.40 ± 3.62	4.00 ± 5.28	3.40 ± 5.54	3.20 ± 5.61
MPA	7.33 ± 7.53	10.00 ± 6.27 ^a	3.67 ± 5.81	2.67 ± 4.17 ^a
VPA	6.60 ± 11.01	8.40 ± 14.62	.60 ± 2.32	.60 ± 2.32
LTPA	16.33 ± 16.36 ^b	22.40 ± 11.38 ^{b, c}	7.67 ± 7.42	6.47 ± 6.72 ^c
BMI	26.62 ± 3.19	26.32 ± 3.33	26.98 ± 2.87	26.87 ± 2.76
Smoking	2.33 ± 2.16 ^d	1.53 ± 1.46 ^d	2.53 ± 2.72	2.53 ± 2.72
Nutrition	7.56 ± 1.43 ^e	8.11 ± 1.01 ^e	7.52 ± 1.36	7.52 ± 1.45

Notes: M = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; LPA = Light Physical Activity; MPA = Moderate physical activity; VPA = Vigorous physical activity; LTPA: Leisure-time Physical Activity; BMI: Body Mass Index; ^{a, c} Significant differences on MPA and LTPA between experiment and control groups; ^{b, d, e} Significant differences on LTPA, smoking and food consumption between pre and post measures only for the experiment group.

4. Discussion

People with MS do not seem to differ from people without MS for any of the individual factors associated with PA levels, smoking habits and their intention to adopt a healthier nutrition in the future (Karageorgou et al., 2019). This is probably due to the lack of information on nutrition and smoking habits but also due to health complications experienced by the chronic condition of the disease itself (Esposito et al., 2017). Thus, the purpose of the present study was to investigate the effect of a combined exercise and goal-setting program on Greek patients with MS in order to increase their PA, maintain a healthy eating plan and reduce smoking.

Following intervention, experiment group participants reported higher scores in their PA levels (MPA, LTPA) compared to control group individuals, probably attributed to their own decision to choose how to structure their exercise program (choose of place, type of exercise, frequency and intensity) in combination with their personal goals set

with the guidance and mutual agreement of the well-trained scientific staff at the beginning of each week. Casey et al. (2017) similarly stated that goal setting had a positive relation with PA levels increase of MS patients, whereas Latimer-Cheung et al. (2013) further revealed that higher PA levels of MS patients were positively related to exercise of moderate intensity. On the other hand, Miller et al. (2005) in their earlier study observed that individuals with MS preferred to exercise with mild intensity compared to participants without disabilities as well as patients with other diseases who mainly choose to exercise with moderate intensity. Thus, it seems that over the years MS patients receive more information and feedback about the benefits of exercise and the level of intensity that they can determine, which in turn leads to a gradual increase of the intensity level of exercise chosen. Quite clearly, MS participants no longer feel that the disease is an inhibitory factor toward participation in physical activity, up to the extent they would prefer and decide their own level of exercise intensity according to their own desire and personal decision. In this regard, Fragozo et al. (2008) noted that an exercise program for MS patients should be progressive in terms of exercise intensity so as to have a positive effect on maintaining or even improving their health status.

In addition, post measures showed that experimental group individuals reduced smoking and improved their eating habits as a result of their own decision to gradually reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke each week and to structure a healthier nutrition plan they could follow each week as the intervention program progressed. Quite clearly, goal setting played an important role of this positive behavior change since it increased their motivation and self-confidence to meet their self-set goals to reduce smoking and improve their physical activity and nutritional habits until the completion of the exercise program. In this regard, Wilson and Brookfield (2009), noted that following a six-week exercise and goal setting program all participants of their study achieved higher scores on their motivation level, perceived choice and enjoyment. Based on the above, goal-setting seems to work in MS patients as a motivator to continue to improve their health-related behaviors and status. Thus, it could be suitably recommended for use and application by exercise specialists and/or health care professionals as a strategy to change or improve health behaviors of MS patients. The above results are in line with the vast majority of studies showing that goal-setting strategy is probably one of the strongest facilitators of improving physical activity levels, dietary and smoking behaviors (Lorenatto et al., 2016; McEwan et al., 2016; Shilts et al., 2004; Swann et al., 2021).

In contrast, no differences were observed for control group individuals between pre and post measurements, since MS patients of the control group did not appear to have the desire to change their daily lifestyle without any additional guidance. This in turn shows that MS patients need some initial guidance, information and support by specialized scientific staff, so as to set their own goals for a more active life that will include more exercise and healthier habits. Thus, the implementation of combined

exercise and goal setting programs such as this of study is essential to motivate MS patients to adopt a more active and healthier lifestyle.

A limitation of the present study was the small number of participants with MS and the use of self-report measures to record their PA levels, nutritional habits and smoking incidence, since it is well known that self-report measures are vulnerable to recall bias (Spitzer & Weber, 2019). Therefore, it is recommended to future researchers to use motion sensors (accelerometers) to record the PA levels of MS patients as well as keeping daily notes regarding nutrition or smoking. Another limitation was the absence of a follow-up study, thus, future researches should incorporate a follow-up measure three to six months following the completion of their research, to ascertain whether the impact of the intervention program had a long-term effect on health-related behaviors.

Overall, the exercise program of this study combined with the self-set goal strategies regarding PA, nutrition and smoking reduction, led to a significant reduction of smoking as well as in the adoption of healthier nutritional behaviors and higher PA levels in all post measurements of the experiment group. In conclusion, the results of this research highlight the importance of the procedures proposed, in the context of providing initial information, support and throughout guidance as a prerequisite to increase exercise participation, foster healthier nutrition habits and reduce smoking of MS patients by using a personal goal-setting approach. In this way, MS patients might adopt an active role and become the ones responsible for a healthier and more active lifestyle for their own benefit (Riccio & Rossano, 2015).

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

About the Authors

Anastasia Karageorgou, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Dimitrios Kokaridas, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Yiannis Theodorakis, Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Marios Goudas, Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Charalampos Krommidas, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Evangelia Christodoulou, MSc, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

Sergios Mousiolis. MD, Neurologist, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Greece.

References

- Ascherio A, Munger KL, White R, Köchert K, Simon KC, Polman CH, Freedman MS, Hartung HP, Miller DH, Montalbán X, Edan G, Barkhof F, Pleimes D, Radü EW, Sandbrink R, Kappos L, Pohl C, 2014. Vitamin D as an early predictor of multiple sclerosis activity and progression. *JAMA Neurology* 71 (3): 306-314. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2013.5993>
- Bailey RR, 2017. Goal Setting and Action Planning for Health Behavior Change. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine* 13 (6): 615-618. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1559827617729634>
- Bebetsos E, Theodorakis I, Laparidis K, Chroni S, 2000. Reliability and validity of a Self-Confidence Scale for a Healthy Eating Questionnaire. *Health and Sport Performance (in Greek language)* 3: 191-203.
- Belbasis L, Bellou V, Evangelou E, Ioannidis JP, Tzoulaki I, 2015. Environmental risk factors and multiple sclerosis: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *The Lancet Neurology* 14(3): 263-273. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(14\)70267-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(14)70267-4)
- Brown G, Leonard C, Arthur-Kelly M, 2016. Writing SMARTER goals for professional learning and improving classroom practices. *Reflective Practice* 17(5): 621-635. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14623943.2016.1187120>
- Casey B, Coote S, Shirazipour C, Hannigan A, Motl R, Martin Ginis K, Latimer-Cheung A, 2017. Modifiable psychosocial constructs associated with physical activity participation in people with multiple sclerosis: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* 98(7): 1453-1475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2017.01.027>
- Compston A, Coles A, 2008. Multiple sclerosis. *The Lancet (London, England)* 372(9648): 1502-1517. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(08\)61620-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(08)61620-7)
- Dalgas U, Stenager E, Jakobsen J, Petersen T, Hansen HJ, Knudsen C, Overgaard K, Ingemann-Hansen T, 2010. Fatigue, mood and quality of life improve in MS patients after progressive resistance training. *Multiple Sclerosis (Houndmills, Basingstoke, England)* 16(4): 480-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458509360040>
- Esposito S, Bonavita S, Sparaco M, Gallo A, Tedeschi G, 2018. The role of diet in multiple sclerosis: A review. *Nutritional Neuroscience* 21(6): 377-390. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1028415X.2017.1303016>
- Farinotti M, Vacchi L, Simi S, Di Pietrantonj C, Brait L, Filippini G, 2012. Dietary interventions for multiple sclerosis. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 12, CD004192. <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD004192.pub3>
- Fragoso YD, Santana DL, Pinto RC, 2008. The positive effects of a physical activity program for multiple sclerosis patients with fatigue. *NeuroRehabilitation* 23(2): 153-157.

- Godin G, Shephard RJ, 1985. Psycho-social predictors of exercise intentions among spouses. *Canadian Journal of Applied Sport Sciences (Journal Canadien des Sciences Appliquees au Sport)*, 10(1): 36-43.
- Gratziou C, Gourgoulialis K, Pataka PA, Sykara GD, Messig M, Raju S, 2012. Varenicline as a smoking cessation aid in a Greek population: a subanalysis of an observational study. *Tobacco Induced Diseases*, 10(1): 1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1617-9625-10-1>
- Heatherton TF, Kozlowski LT, Frecker RC, Fagerström KO, 1991. The Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence: a revision of the Fagerström Tolerance Questionnaire. *British Journal of Addiction*, 86(9): 1119-1127. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.1991.tb01879.x>
- Karageorgou A, Kokaridas D, Theodorakis Y, Mousiolis S, Patsiaouras A, Goudas M, 2019. Comparative study of individuals with and without multiple sclerosis: Overall profile of quality of life, exercise, health behaviors. *International Journal of Sports Science and Physical Education*, 3(4): 55-61.
- Kastanias T, Tokmakidis S, 2008. Exercise as a means of promoting functional capacity and quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Archives of Hellenic Medicine*, 25: 720-728.
- Kutzelnigg A, Lassmann H, 2014. Pathology of multiple sclerosis and related inflammatory demyelinating diseases. *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*, 122: 15-58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-444-52001-2.00002-9>
- Lai B, Young HJ, Bickel CS, Motl RW, Rimmer JH, 2017. Current trends in exercise intervention research, technology, and behavioral change strategies for people with disabilities: A scoping review. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, 96(10): 748-761. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PHM.0000000000000743>
- Latimer-Cheung AE, Pilutti LA, Hicks AL, Martin Ginis KA, Fenuta AM, MacKibbin KA, Motl RW, 2013. Effects of exercise training on fitness, mobility, fatigue, and health-related quality of life among adults with multiple sclerosis: a systematic review to inform guideline development. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 94(9): 1800-1828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2013.04.020>
- Lawlor KB, Hornyak MJ, 2012. SMART goals: How the application of SMART goals contribute to achievement of student learning outcomes. *Developments in Business Simulation and Experiential Learning*, 39: 259-267.
- Locke EA, Latham GP, 2006. New directions in goal-setting theory. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15: 265-268. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8721.2006.00449.x>
- Lorencatto F, West R, Bruguera C, Brose LS, Michie S 2016. Assessing the quality of goal setting in behavioural support for smoking cessation and its association with outcomes. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine: A publication of the Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 50(2): 310-318. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-015-9755-7>
- MacLeod L, 2012. Making SMART goals smarter. *Physician Executive Journal*, March/April, 68-72.

- Marck, CH, Hadgkiss EJ, Weiland TJ, van der Meer DM, Pereira NG, Jelinek GA, 2014. Physical activity and associated levels of disability and quality of life in people with multiple sclerosis: a large international survey. *BMC Neurology*, 14: 143. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2377-14-143>
- McEwan D, Harden SM, Zumbo BD, Sylvester BD, Kaulius M, Ruissen GR, Dowd AJ, Beauchamp MR, 2016. The effectiveness of multi-component goal setting interventions for changing physical activity behaviour: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Health Psychology Review*, 10(1): 67-88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2015.1104258>
- Miller D, Barkhof F, Montalban X, Thompson A, Filippi M, 2005. Clinically isolated syndromes suggestive of multiple sclerosis, part I: natural history, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and prognosis. *The Lancet Neurology*, 4(5): 281-288. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422\(05\)70071-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(05)70071-5)
- Mirzaei F, Michels KB, Munger K, O'Reilly E, Chitnis T, Forman MR, Giovannucci E, Rosner B, Ascherio A, 2011. Gestational vitamin D and the risk of multiple sclerosis in offspring. *Annals of Neurology*, 70(1): 30-40. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ana.22456>
- Motl RW, Gosney JL, 2008. Effect of exercise training on quality of life in multiple sclerosis: a meta-analysis. *Multiple Sclerosis (Houndmills, Basingstoke, England)*, 14(1): 129-135. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458507080464>
- Motl RW, Snook EM, 2008. Physical activity, self-efficacy, and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine: A publication of the Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 35(1): 111-115. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-007-9006-7>
- Munger KL, Chitnis T, Frazier AL, Giovannucci E, Spiegelman D, Ascherio A, 2011. Dietary intake of vitamin D during adolescence and risk of multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology*, 258(3): 479-485. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-010-5783-1>
- Ortiz GG, Pacheco-Moisés FP, Bitzer-Quintero OK, Ramírez-Anguiano AC, Flores-Alvarado LJ, Ramírez-Ramírez V, Macias-Islas MA, Torres-Sánchez ED, 2013. Immunology and oxidative stress in multiple sclerosis: clinical and basic approach. *Clinical & Developmental Immunology*, 2013, 708659. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/708659>
- Pearson ES, 2012. Goal setting as a health behavior change strategy in overweight and obese adults: a systematic literature review examining intervention components. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 87(1): 32-42. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2011.07.018>
- Ramanujam R, Hedström AK, Manouchehrinia A, Alfredsson L, Olsson T, Bottai M, Hillert J, 2015. Effect of smoking cessation on multiple sclerosis prognosis. *JAMA Neurology*, 72(10): 1117-1123. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2015.1788>
- Riccio P, Rossano R, 2015. Nutrition facts in multiple sclerosis. *ASN Neuro*, 7(1), 1759091414568185. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1759091414568185>
- Riemann-Lorenz K, Eilers M, von Geldern G, Schulz KH, Köpke S, Heesen C, 2016. Dietary interventions in multiple sclerosis: Development and pilot-testing of an

- evidence Based patient education program. *PloS One*, 11(10), e0165246. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0165246>
- Romberg A, Virtanen A, Ruutiainen J, 2005. Long-term exercise improves functional impairment but not quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology*, 252(7): 839-845. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-005-0759-2>
- Saini P, Lacroix J, 2009. Self-setting of physical activity goals and effects on perceived difficulty, importance and competence. *Persuasive '09: Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Persuasive Technology*, 33: 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1541948.1541992>
- Salzer J, Hallmans G, Nyström M, Stenlund H, Wadell G, Sundström P, 2013. Smoking as a risk factor for multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis (Houndmills, Basingstoke, England)*, 19(8): 1022-1027. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458512470862>
- Saridi M, Nanou A, Vasilopoulos Ch, Kourakos M, Skliros E, Toska A, Souliotis K, 2017. Smoking habits among Greek university students after the financial crisis. *Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention: APJCP*, 18(5): 1329-1335. <https://doi.org/10.22034/APJCP.2017.18.5.1329>
- Spitzer S, Weber D, 2019. Reporting biases in self-assessed physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans. *PloS One*, 14(10), e0223526. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223526>
- Swann C, Rosenbaum S, Lawrence A, Vella SA, McEwan D, Ekkekakis P, 2021. Updating goal-setting theory in physical activity promotion: a critical conceptual review. *Health Psychology Review*, 15(1): 34-50. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2019.1706616>
- Theodorakis Y, Hassandra M, 2005. Smoking and exercise: Part 2. Differences between exercisers and non-exercisers. *Inquiries in Sport & Physical Education*, 3: 239-248.
- Wilson K, Brookfield D, 2009. Effect of goal setting on motivation and adherence in a six-week exercise program. *International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, 7(1): 89-100. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1612197X.2009.9671894>
- Wingerchuk DM, 2011. Environmental factors in multiple sclerosis: Epstein-Barr virus, vitamin D, and cigarette smoking. *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine, New York*, 78(2): 221-230. <https://doi.org/10.1002/msj.20240>

Creative Commons licensing terms

Authors will retain the copyright of their published articles agreeing that a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0) terms will be applied to their work. Under the terms of this license, no permission is required from the author(s) or publisher for members of the community to copy, distribute, transmit or adapt the article content, providing a proper, prominent and unambiguous attribution to the authors in a manner that makes clear that the materials are being reused under permission of a Creative Commons License. Views, opinions and conclusions expressed in this research article are views, opinions and conclusions of the author(s). Open Access Publishing Group and European Journal of Physical Education and Sport Science shall not be responsible or answerable for any loss, damage or liability caused in relation to/arising out of conflict of interests, copyright violations and inappropriate or inaccurate use of any kind content related or integrated on the research work. All the published works are meeting the Open Access Publishing requirements and can be freely accessed, shared, modified, distributed and used in educational, commercial and non-commercial purposes under a [Creative Commons attribution 4.0 International License \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



Journal of Sport and Health Research

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, the Editor of the *Journal of Sport and Health Research*, registered with ISSN 1989-6239

CERTIFIES

Karageorgou, A.; Kokaridas, D.; Theodorakis, Y.; Goudas, M.; Krommidas, C.; Mousiolis, S. are the authors of the paper titled "*THE EFFECT OF A COMBINED EXERCISE AND GOAL-SETTING PROGRAM ON IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE AND REDUCING ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS*". The paper has been accepted and it will be published in the *Journal of Sport and Health Research*, after obtaining a positive assessment by the Scientific Committee. It will be available online in the following web: www.journalsshr.com.

Journal of Sport and Health Research is indexed in the following data base: *Scopus (SJR-Q3)*, *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI – Web of Science)*; *Journal Scholar Metrics*; *DOAJ*; *Dialnet*; *IN-RECS (Educación)*; *Latindex*; *DICE*; *REDIB*; *ISOC*; *Dulcinea*; *EBSCO Host*; *Google Scholar*; *MIAR*; *CIRC*; *RESH*; *Worldcat*; *CAPS*; *Sherpa Romeo*; *ULRICHS*; *ERIH PLUS*.

Jaén, May 01, 2023.

Associate Editor: Ramón Chacón Cuberos
Journal of Sport and Health Research



TÍTULO DEL ARTÍCULO

El efecto del ejercicio y las estrategias de establecimiento de objetivos en la mejora de la calidad de vida y la reducción de la ansiedad y la depresión en pacientes con esclerosis múltiple.

RESUMEN

El objetivo del presente estudio fue examinar el efecto de un programa combinado de ejercicio y establecimiento de metas en pacientes con esclerosis múltiple (EM) para mejorar su calidad de vida y reducir los síntomas de ansiedad y depresión. La muestra ha consistido en 30 pacientes con EM (15 hombres y 15 mujeres), de 23 a 65 años, sometidos aleatoriamente a un experimento y a un grupo de control. El grupo experimental ($N = 15$) participó en un programa de ejercicio de 8 semanas combinado con estrategias de establecimiento de metas autoseleccionadas y los principios de la Teoría de la Autodeterminación (SDT; por ejemplo, Ryan & Deci, 2000) para aumentar su participación en el ejercicio. El grupo de control ($N = 15$) no participó en ningún procedimiento interventivo. En el momento pre- y posinterventivo, ambos grupos emplearon instrumentos para medir su nivel de calidad de vida (SF-36), ansiedad y depresión (HADS). Se utilizaron ANOVA de medidas repetidas de dos vías y las pruebas no paramétricas de la U de Mann-Whitney y de Wilcoxon para examinar las posibles diferencias en las variables dependientes entre el tiempo (pre y post-intervención) y los grupos (experimental, control). Los resultados mostraron una mejora en las características de calidad de vida (funcionamiento físico, vitalidad, rol emocional, salud mental, salud mental general) y una reducción de los niveles de depresión y ansiedad solo para los participantes del grupo experimental en comparación con los individuos del grupo de control ($p < .05$). Con base en los hallazgos, se han hecho más observaciones relativas al efecto de un programa combinado de actividad física y fijación de objetivos sobre la mejora en la calidad de vida de los pacientes con EM.

Palabras clave: actividad física, estrategias de cambio comportamental, desorden autoinmune, bienestar.

TITLE PAPER

The effect of exercise and goal setting strategies on improving quality of life and reducing anxiety and depression of multiple sclerosis patients.

ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study was to examine the effect of a combined exercise and goal-setting program in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) on improving their quality of life and reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression. The sample consisted of 30 patients with MS (15 men & 15 women), aged 23 to 65 years, randomly assigned into an experimental and a control group. The experimental group ($N = 15$) participated in an 8-week exercise program combined with self-selected goal-setting strategies and the principles of Self-Determination Theory (SDT; e.g., Ryan & Deci, 2000) to increase their exercise participation. The control group ($N = 15$) did not participate in any intervention procedure. Pre and post intervention, both groups completed instruments measuring their quality of life (SF-36), anxiety and depression (HADS). Two-way repeated measures ANOVA and the non-parametric tests of Mann-Whitney U and Wilcoxon were used to examine possible differences on the dependent variables between time (pre and post-intervention) and groups (experimental, control). Results showed a significant improvement on quality of life features (physical functioning, vitality, emotional role, mental health, general mental health) and a reduction of depression and anxiety levels only for the experimental group participants compared to control group individuals ($p < .05$). Based on these findings, further recommendations were made concerning the effect of a combined physical activity (PA) and goal-setting program on improving quality of life of patients with MS.

Keywords: physical activity; behavioral change strategies; autoimmune disorder; well-being.



INTRODUCTION

Multiple sclerosis (MS), is one of the most representative inflammatory demyelinating chronic diseases that affects both motor and sensory nerve conduction and causes varying degrees of disability (Kutzelnigg & Lassmann, 2014). Some of its symptoms include muscle weakness and fatigue, instability, loss of joint function movement, blurred vision, speech problems and unpredictable changes of remission and exacerbation periods that may lead to partial or complete paralysis for the more severe cases, making MS a purely individual situation that each patient experiences differently (Compston & Coles, 2008).

The variety of symptoms that affect the mental and physical condition of MS patients (Buhse et al., 2014) result in patients becoming dependent on family environment with a continuous decline in their quality of life (Kargarfard, 2012; Fruewald et al., 2008). According to World Health Organization (1995; p. 1403), quality of life is defined as “*an individual's perception of his/her position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which he/she lives and in relation to his/her goals, expectations, standards and concerns*”.

Depression is also frequent due to the disease itself as well as psychosocial factors (Rickards, 2005) that cause lack of interest, sleeping problems, eating disorders and suicidal ideation (Siegert & Abernethy, 2005). In the research of Hunter et al. (2021) in patients with MS observed that 73% of participants had severe depressive symptoms that can significantly reduce quality of life and employment status in persons with MS (Ploughman et al., 2020). MS patients experience intense anxiety caused either by a lack of social support or by the fear of the disease, creating negative emotions that affect and aggravate the whole situation (Makri, 2013).

Dalgas et al. (2015) showed that increased physical activity (PA) reduces and/or prevents depression in MS patients, with the intensity of exercise influencing findings. Furthermore, Marck et al. (2014) and Dalgas and Stenager (2010) noted that participation in exercise programs, especially in organized and individualized ones, improves the quality of life of MS patients as a form of treatment that helps patients reduce the incidence of MS flares (Mostert & Kesselring, 2002), and improve their functionality level compared to patients who do not exercise (Motl & Snook, 2008; Romberg et al.,

2005). Overall, relative evidence indicates that exercise yields a statistically significant and reliable reduction in depressive symptoms for people with MS (Ensari et al., 2014). Thus, future research is absolutely necessary to conduct (Dalgas et al., 2015) to further highlight the importance of exercise as an integral part of the daily life of MS patients (Vozikis & Sotiropoulou, 2012).

Goal-setting helps to adopt health behaviors and more specifically is an effective behavioral change strategy towards exercise (Grover et al., 2016; McEwan et al., 2016; Pearson, 2012; Shilts et al., 2004; Swann et al., 2021), that needs an action plan and commitment so as to succeed (Bailey, 2017; Locke & Latham, 2002). Based on goal-setting theory, effective goals must be personal, achievable, specific, challenging, time-limited, and measurable (Brown et al., 2016; Lawlor & Hornyak, 2012; Locke & Latham, 2006; MacLeod, 2012). Especially when goals are defined by the participants themselves, goal-setting interventions can be even more effective (Williams & French, 2011) creating a more positive effect in relation to PA behavior (McEwan et al., 2016).

Marks et al. (2005) showed that MS treatment measures improve as the effectiveness of self-management improves, whereas Bloom et al. (2006) noted that MS patients gave higher scores on the likelihood of success in achieving self-selected goals. Geurts et al. (2019), in their study of a mobile application that supported participants with MS in achieving personal goals in walking, revealed positive trends in walking ability and habits. Overall, findings suggest that goal-setting is positively related to the increase in exercise levels of MS patients (Casey et al., 2017).

In relation to Self-Determination theory (SDT; Ryan & Deci, 2000), SDT is a theoretical framework that attempts to explain the reasons behind one's participation in exercise. Research has shown that satisfaction of competence (e.g., to feel confident in a task) and intrinsic motives (e.g., to do something that I like) are significant predictors of exercise participation across a range of different research contexts (e.g., healthy or patients, young or adults individuals) (Teixeira et al., 2012). Similarly, Ng et al. (2012, p. 325) proposed that “*SDT is a viable conceptual framework to study antecedents and outcomes of motivation for health-related behaviors*”.



Furthermore, Fortier et al. (2012) tested three SDT theory-based randomised control trials targeting to promote PA in different frames and populations. They found significant intervention effects on participants' PA levels and motivation to engage in exercise. Consequently, the principles of SDT (Ryan & Deci, 2000) were also adopted in the present intervention study, as later described in procedure section.

Research so far has focused mainly on the factors that constitute the overall health profile of MS patients (Karageorgou et al., 2019), who generally feel exhausted to carry out their daily activities (Kastanias & Tokmakidis, 2008) and exhibit mood swings, emotional instability, irritability or even mental illness (Koutsouraki et al., 1998). As a result, MS patients face difficulties to set personal goals in their lives (Polykandriotis & Kyritsi, 2006). Samartzis et al. (2014) also found that reduced cognitive function and retrospective memory affect the quality of life of MS patients regardless of depression and disease severity (Hadgkiss et al., 2015), whereas Makri (2013) noted that stress, physical health and overall perceived quality of life of MS patients affect cognitive function. As for PA, only the study of Garopoulou (2012) showed that the implementation of a hydrotherapy program can improve the motor skills and quality of life of adults with MS.

Furthermore, reviewing the literature it seems that no research has yet been conducted that examines the potential benefits of participating in exercise programs that include goal-setting interventions in an attempt to improve quality of life parameters of MS participants. Thus, the main purpose of the present study was to examine the effect of an exercise program combined with self-selected goal-setting strategies and the principles of SDT (e.g., Ryan & Deci, 2000) on improving MS patients' quality of life consisted of physical health features (physical functioning, role physical, bodily pain, general health) and mental health features (social functioning, role emotional, vitality, and mental health). A secondary goal of the combined exercise program

was to reduce MS patients' anxiety and depressive symptoms.

METHODS

Participants

Thirty (30) MS patients (15 males and 15 females), all adults 23 to 65 years old ($M = 38.70 \pm 9.53$ years) and members of the Hellenic Multiple Sclerosis Society in central Greece, constituted the sample of this study. After an initial meeting, all MS individuals expressed their interest to participate in the study. Next, they signed a consent form ensuring confidentiality of voluntary participation and responses and they were randomly assigned in an experiment and a control group. The experiment group ($N = 15$) participated in a combined exercise and goal-setting program, whereas control group individuals ($N = 15$) did not take part in any of the research procedures.

It should be noted that preliminary findings of this intervention that showed exercise group participants with MS reporting higher rates of leisure-time PA compared to the non-exercisers MS patients, are presented in the study of Karageorgou et al. (2022). Thus, this study focuses solely on the psychological outcomes of this intervention.

Instruments

Health-related quality of life. The Greek version (Pappa et al., 2005) of the SF-36 survey (Ware & Sherbourne, 1992) was used to evaluate participants' health-related quality of life. SF-36 is a self-assessment tool designed to examine individual perceptions regarding quality of life in relation to eight different areas, that is, physical functioning (e.g., *Walking 100 meters*), role physical (e.g., *During the past 4 weeks, have you had any of the following problems with your work or other regular daily activities as a result of your physical health?*), bodily pain (e.g., *How much bodily pain have you had during the past 4 weeks?*), general health (e.g., *I am as health as anybody I know*), social functioning (e.g., *During the past 4 weeks, to what extent has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your normal social activities with your normal social activities with family, friends, neighbors or groups?*), vitality (e.g., *Did you feel full of life?*), role emotional (e.g., *During the past 4 weeks, have you had any of the following problems*



with your work or other regular activities as a result of any emotional problems?) and mental health (e.g., *Have you been a very nervous person?*). These eight domains are grouped into two main areas of physical and mental component scores, with higher values indicating a higher quality of life. The SF-36 health survey was previously used and validated not only in MS patients but in other chronic diseases as well, with good psychometric properties (Krokavcova et al., 2009).

Depression and anxiety. The Greek version (Michopoulos et al., 2008) of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale - HADS (Zigmond & Snaith, 1983) was used for detecting states of depression and anxiety and measuring severity of emotional disorder in patients who may need additional psychological evaluation and support. The usefulness of HADS has been previously reported as a reliable indicator of major depression and generalized anxiety disorders in MS patients (Honarmand & Feinstein, 2009).

Procedure

The study protocol and its procedures were approved by the University of Thessaly bioethics committee. Following the meeting that preceded the commencement of the program and the consent form signed by the participants, the sample was randomly assigned through a lottery process (1:1) in an experiment and a control group. In the first exercise session, the participants of the experiment group ($N = 15$) completed a commitment card as a "personal contract" that they would be able to abide by their decision. Furthermore, each participant of the experiment group was informed and familiarized with self-regulation and goal-setting strategies for PA by the researcher, with the purpose to provide each individual the opportunity to choose placement and type of exercise.

Next, the intervention program for the experiment group participants included an eight-week exercise combined with self-selected goal-setting strategies at a frequency of 2 to 3 sessions per week of 20 to 30 minutes per session that could be gradually increased to 60 to 90 minutes as the program progressed, based on patients' choice and goal-setting procedures and under the supervision of the primary researcher.

Prior implementing the intervention program, resting heart rate was measured. Heart rate was recorded at each exercise and exercise intensity was initially set at 55% of resting heart rate (Karvonen et al., 1957)

and kept as an intensity goal throughout application of the exercise program.

The protocol was based on the principles of SDT (Ryan & Deci, 2000) as implemented on the THALES Project (Hatzigeorgiadis et al., 2016). According to SDT, to increase individual motivation, it is necessary to strengthen three basic psychological needs, that is, the need: a) to feel competent, b) to feel autonomous, and c) to develop essential relationships (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Ryan & Deci, 2000). To reinforce the need to feel competent, participants completed a daily goal list (e.g., duration of exercise time, times per week). In this way, each participant learned to set achievable, self-evaluated, realistic and short-term goals according to own abilities. As for autonomy, participants had the opportunity to choose the place and the type of exercise to increase their enjoyment and engagement. Finally, the need to develop meaningful relationships was reinforced through the relationship developed with the primary researcher and with the other participants.

At the beginning of each session, the researcher was informed by each participant and all information was recorded in the personal diary of each one so that there is detailed feedback progress and individual effort throughout the program.

Instruments used for all participants of both groups were administered for completion prior and after the intervention program. The control group ($N = 15$) did not participate in any intervention procedure. It is important to mention that the combined exercise program was also offered to the participants of the control group after the end of the intervention program.

Statistical analysis

Data analysis included the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Statistics v26.0). Initially, normal distribution was verified using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S). A z score of SF-36 variables was also calculated and named Quality of Life Index (QoL Index). Then, separate independent samples t-tests were conducted in order to check for possible differences in the examined variables between groups (experimental and control) at the pre-intervention measurement. Following, a two-way repeated measures ANOVA (2x2) was used to detect possible differences in the examined variables between time (pre-post), group



(experimental and control) and interaction between time and groups. In case normal distribution was violated, a Mann-Whitney *U* non-parametric test was conducted to assess probable differences in post-intervention results between the two groups, while a Wilcoxon non-parametric test was used to examine possible differences between pre and post-intervention measures within each group. Statistical significance was set at $p < .05$.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics and normal distribution

Descriptive statistics ($M \pm SD$) and normal distribution of the examined variables in pre and post measures are as follows (Table 1).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics and normal distribution of variables in pre and post- measures.

Variables	Pre		Post	
	M ± SD	K-S	M ± SD	K-S
Physical functioning	20,37 ± 5,90	0,519	21,57 ± 6,18	0,53
Role Physical	6,13 ± 1,76	1,402*	5,87 ± 1,76	1,402*
General Health	14,27 ± 4,11	0,753	14,87 ± 3,83	0,823
Vitality	13,87 ± 3,60	0,537	15,23 ± 3,48	0,515
Mental health	19,57 ± 4,52	0,742	21,00 ± 4,43	0,825
Role emotional	4,83 ± 1,29	1,738*	5,07 ± 1,11	1,640*
Bodily pain	7,00 ± 1,93	1,266	7,00 ± 1,86	0,757
Social functioning	4,70 ± 1,90	0,789	4,63 ± 1,75	0,816
General physical health	47,77 ± 10,92	0,461	49,30 ± 10,70	0,587
General mental health	42,97 ± 6,87	0,785	45,93 ± 6,52	0,961
Anxiety	7,50 ± 4,26	0,663	6,90 ± 4,19	0,67
Depression	7,37 ± 3,86	0,651	6,53 ± 3,48	0,657
QoL Index (z scores)	0,00 ± 0,87	0,155	0,00 ± 0,92	0,135

Notes. *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard Deviation; K-S = Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; * $p < .05$.

Differences between the two groups at the pre-intervention measurement

Separate independent samples t-tests revealed no statistically significant differences on physical functioning ($t_{28} = -.152, p = .880$), role physical ($t_{28} =$

$-0.204, p = .839$), bodily pain ($t_{28} = -.944, p = .353$), general physical health ($t_{28} = -1.125, p = .270$), vitality ($t_{28} = -1.908, p = .067$), role emotional ($t_{28} = 1.289, p = .208$), social functioning ($t_{28} = .095, p = .925$), anxiety ($t_{28} = .896, p = .378$), and depression ($t_{28} = .895, p = .379$), between the two groups (experimental and control) at the pre-intervention measurement. In contrast, there were statistically significant differences on general health ($t_{28} = -2.396, p < .05$), mental health ($t_{28} = -2.609, p < .05$), general mental health ($t_{28} = -2.445, p < .05$), and QoL Index ($t_{28} = -2.040, p = .05$) between the two groups at the initial measurement. More specifically, examining the mean scores of the above variables, results showed that the control group reported higher scores on general health, mental health, general mental health and QoL Index compared to the experimental group at the pre-intervention measurement.

Differences between the two groups on physical and mental health

Two-way ANOVAs with repeated measures showed significant interactions between time and group only on “physical functioning” (Wilks’ $\lambda = .855, F_{1,28} = 4.767, p < .05, p^2 = .15$). Additional analysis of these interactions revealed significant differences on “physical functioning” ($F_{1,28} = 7.051, p < .05, p^2 = .20$) between pre- and post measures only for the participants of the experiment group, with significantly higher scores noted in post measures (Table 2; Figure 1). No significant interactions were noted between time and group on “general health” (Wilks’ $\lambda = .910, F_{1,28} = 2.761, p = .108, p^2 = .09$), “bodily pain” (Wilks’ $\lambda = .950, F_{1,28} = 1.474, p = .235, p^2 = .05$) and “general physical health” (Wilks’ $\lambda = .885, F_{1,28} = 3.654, p = .07, p^2 = .12$).

As for “role physical”, Mann Whitney *U* test showed no statistically significant differences on post-intervention scores ($U = 108.00, p = .845$) between the two groups (Table 2). Similarly, Wilcoxon test showed no significant differences between pre and post measures both for the experiment ($Z = -.683, p = .494$) and control group ($Z = -1.166, p = .244$).

Table 2. General physical health differences between the two groups (experimental, control).

Variables	Experimental group		Control group	
	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)
Physical functioning	20,20 ± 5,44 ^a	23,07 ± 5,74 ^c	20,53 ± 6,52	20,07 ± 6,43



Role Physical	6,07 ± 1,94	5,93 ± 1,94	6,20 ± 1,61	5,80 ± 1,61
General Health	12,60 ± 3,58	14,13 ± 3,76	15,93 ± 4,03	15,60 ± 3,89
Bodily pain	6,67 ± 2,06	7,07 ± 2,12	7,33 ± 1,80	6,93 ± 1,62
General physical health	45,53 ± 11,84	50,20 ± 12,04	50,00 ± 9,80	48,40 ± 6,56

Notes. *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard Deviation; ^a Significant difference on physical functioning between pre and post measures only for the experimental group.

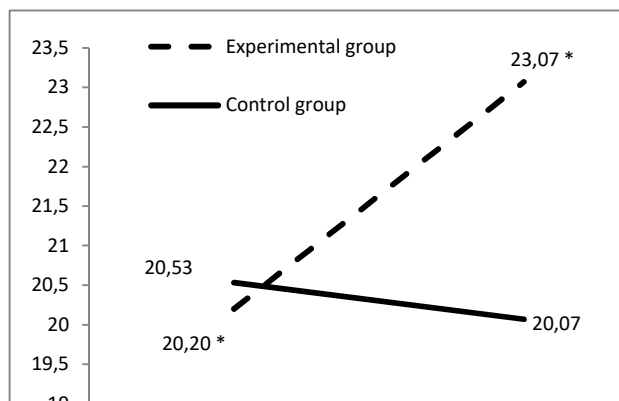


Figure 1. Time (pre, post) and group (experimental, control) differences on MS patients' physical functioning (* $p < .05$).

Furthermore, significant interactions were found between time and group on "vitality" (Wilks' = .818, $F_{1,28} = 6.223$, $p < .05$, $p^2 = .18$), "mental health" (Wilks' = .657, $F_{1,28} = 14.638$, $p < .001$, $p^2 = .34$), and "general mental health" (Wilks' = .633, $F_{1,28} = 16.250$, $p < .001$, $p^2 = .37$; Figure 2) variables. Additional analysis between pre and post measures showed significant differences on "vitality" ($F_{1,28} = 11.873$, $p < .01$, $p^2 = .30$), "mental health" ($F_{1,28} = 20.720$, $p < .001$, $p^2 = .43$), and "general mental health" ($F_{1,28} = 28.233$, $p < .001$, $p^2 = .50$) only for the experiment group participants following the intervention program, with significantly higher scores achieved in all dependent variables in post measurements (Table 3). No significant interactions were noted between time and group on "social functioning" (Wilks' = .920, $F_{1,28} = 2.422$, $p = .131$, $p^2 = .08$).

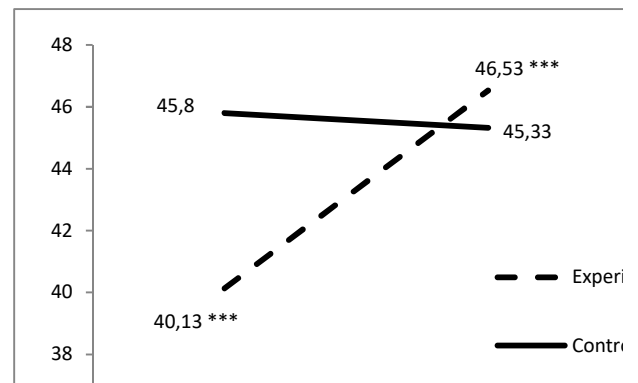


Figure 2. Time (pre, post) and group (experimental, control) differences on MS patients' general mental health (***) $p < .001$.

As for "role emotional", Mann Whitney *U* test revealed statistically significant differences on post-intervention scores ($U = 52.00$, $p < .01$, $p^2 = .21$) between the two groups, with experiment group participants exhibiting higher scores compared to those in the control group (Table 3). Wilcoxon test showed no significant differences between pre and post measures both for the experiment group ($Z = -1.594$, $p = .111$) and the control group ($Z = .00$, $p = 1.00$).

Table 3. Mental health differences between the two groups (experimental, control).

Experimental group		
Variables	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)
Vitality	12,67 ± 3,22 ^a	15,47 ± 3,78 ^a
Mental Health	17,60 ± 4,40 ^b	21,13 ± 5,01 ^b
Role emotional	5,13 ± 1,30	5,60 ± 0,83 ^c
Social functioning	4,73 ± 2,09	4,33 ± 1,80
General mental health	40,13 ± 6,46 ^d	46,53 ± 6,64 ^d
Control group		
Variables	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)
Vitality	15,07 ± 3,65	15,00 ± 3,27
Mental Health	21,53 ± 3,83	20,87 ± 3,94
Role emotional	4,53 ± 1,25 ^e	4,53 ± 1,13 ^{c,e}
Social functioning	4,67 ± 1,76	4,93 ± 1,71
General mental health	45,80 ± 6,24	45,33 ± 6,56

Notes. *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard Deviation; ^{a, b, d} Significant differences on vitality, mental health and general mental health between pre and post measures only for the experimental group; ^c Significant differences on role emotional between experimental and control groups; ^e Significant differences on role emotional between pre and post measures only for the control group.



Differences between the two groups on anxiety and depression

Two-way ANOVAs with repeated measures revealed significant interactions between time and groups on anxiety (Wilks' = .690, $F_{1,28} = 12.554$, $p < .01$, $p^2 = .31$; Figure 3) and depression (Wilks' = .631, $F_{1,28} = 16.371$, $p < .001$, $p^2 = .37$; Figure 4). In particular, significant differences were noted between pre and post measures on anxiety ($F_{1,28} = 11.610$, $p < .01$, $p^2 = .29$) and depression ($F_{1,28} = 16.270$, $p < .001$, $p^2 = .37$) only for the participants of the experiment group following the intervention program, with significantly lower scores achieved in all dependent variables in post measurements (Table 4).

Table 4. Anxiety and depression differences between the two groups (experimental, control).

Experimental group		
Variables	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)
Anxiety	8,20 ± 4,75 ^a	5,93 ± 4,13 ^a
Depression	8,00 ± 3,76 ^b	5,13 ± 3,20 ^{b,c}
Control group		
Variables	Pre (M ± SD)	Post (M ± SD)
Anxiety	6,80 ± 3,75	7,87 ± 4,16
Depression	6,73 ± 3,99	7,93 ± 3,26 ^c

Notes. M = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; ^{a, b} Significant differences on anxiety and depression between pre and post measures only for the experimental group; ^c Significant differences on depression between experimental and control groups only for the post measures.

No significant differences emerged between pre and post measures concerning the control group ($F_{1,28} = 2.851$, $p = .102$). Significant differences were also noted on depression between the two groups in post measurements ($F_{1,28} = 5.626$, $p < .05$, $p^2 = .17$), with experiment group participants exhibiting lower scores on depression compared to those of the control group (Table 4; Figure 4).

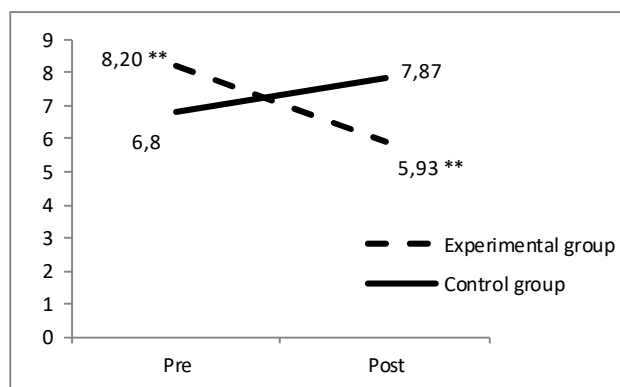


Figure 3. Time (pre, post) and group (experimental, control) differences on MS patients' anxiety (** $p < .01$).

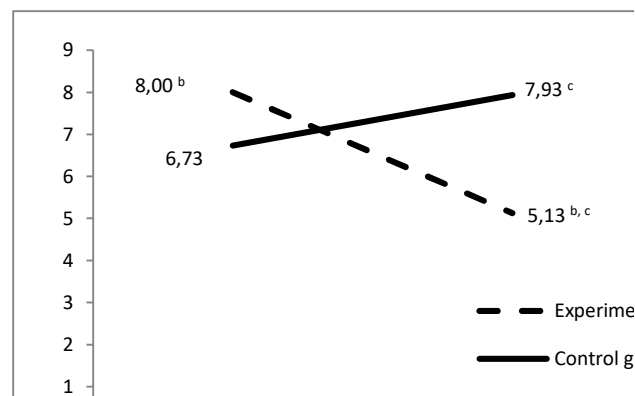


Figure 4. Time (pre, post) and group (experimental, control) differences on MS patients' depression (^{b, c} $p < .001$).

Differences between the two groups on QoL Index

Two-way ANOVA with repeated measures revealed significant interactions between time and groups on QoL Index (Wilks' = .691, $F_{1,28} = 12.532$, $p = .001$, $p^2 = .31$). Analyzing this interaction, results showed significant differences between experimental and control group at the pre-intervention measurement ($F_{1,28} = 4.162$, $p = .05$, $p^2 = .13$). More specifically, control group reported higher z scores in QoL index ($M = .31 \pm .83$) compared to experimental group ($M = -.31 \pm .83$) at the initial measurement. No significant differences emerged on QoL index between the two groups in post measurements ($F_{1,28} = 2.69$, $p = .608$).

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of an 8-week exercise program combined with self-selected goal-setting strategies and the principles of SDT (Ryan & Deci, 2000) on improving quality of life and reducing anxiety and depression of MS patients. Overall, a comparison between pre and post-intervention measures revealed an improvement on quality of life features (physical functioning, vitality, emotional role, mental health, general mental health) and a reduction of depression and anxiety levels only for the experimental group participants compared to control group individuals.

Increase of physical functioning level of the experiment group participants following intervention is in agreement with Stroud and Minahan (2009) who



noted a physical functioning improvement of patients with multiple sclerosis engaged in regular PA. Similar findings of improved physical functioning ratings were recorded in the study of Huisinga et al. (2011) in 26 MS patients completing 15 elliptical exercise training sessions. In the same study of Huisinga et al. (2011) a significant improvement in the emotional role factor was also illustrated, indicating a positive perception development of dealing with the emotional problems caused by MS limitations. Similar results were also reported by the Hammer et al. (2005) study of 11 patients with MS participating in a single-subject experimental design of therapeutic riding sessions. Likewise, an improved emotional role of MS participants found in this study, demonstrates the positive effect of the combined exercise program on the perceptions of MS individuals who felt more physically and emotionally active to participate in their daily activities following the completion of the protocol.

Improved vitality in post-measures noted only for the experiment group participants is in line with the findings of Bjarnadottir et al. (2007) research which showed that short, moderate aerobic exercise can improve the perceived quality of life of MS patients in terms of vitality and physical functioning in daily physical activities, without necessarily reducing physical limitations created by the disability. Tallner et al. (2015) in their study of 265 MS patients reported significantly important differences in vitality in favor of those who were physically active. Kerling et al. (2015) recorded similar vitality increase findings in MS patients involved in a three months' exercise program, whereas Mostert and Kesselring (2002) showed that vitality can significantly improve for MS individuals and provide a positive effect on their vitality level even with exercise protocols of shorter duration than the eight weeks of this study.

In the Ysraelit et al. (2018) study of 700 MS patients and 300 neurologists completing the SF-36 quality of life questionnaire, physicians considered physical functioning (75%) and emotional role (52%) as the most important factors in the quality of life of MS patients whereas patients with MS reported physical functioning (58%) and vitality (52%) as the most significant factors. These findings suggest the importance of these factors in quality of life research. Indeed, post-measures in mental health and general mental health factors in this study shows the valuable effect of the exercise program on improving these

quality of life features, that in turn, enhanced mood and mental health of experiment group participants leading to an improved general mental component score. Similar mental health benefits were reported in Tallner et al. (2015) and Kerling et al. (2015) studies, emphasizing the positive effect of exercise as a mean to improve general mental health of physically active individuals with MS (Stuifbergen & Becker, 2001). On the other hand, these results are not in line with Langeskov-Christensen et al. (2022) findings that showed no significant effects on MS patients' quality of life following the implementation of an aerobic exercise program, probably due to the high-intensity of their program that focused mainly on physical functioning improvements.

Furthermore, lower post-scores reported for experiment group participants on depression and anxiety features compared to those in the control group, further highlight the promising outcome of the exercise program in reducing perceived levels of depression and anxiety experienced by MS patients following intervention. The findings are consistent with the studies of Farmani et al. (2015) and Stroud and Minahan (2009) comparing quality of life features between exercisers and non-exercisers with MS and the study of Molt et al. (2009) showing that MS patients who were more physically active exhibited lower levels of depression.

As Jones et al. (2012) pointed out in the largest known study of its kind with 4178 respondents with MS, anxiety and depression are highly prevalent in people with MS, thus, further support service planning and research is needed to provide the best care for MS individuals to help alleviate these debilitating conditions. In this regard, Dalgas et al. (2015) in their meta-analysis concluded that overall research findings suggest that PA reduces depression symptoms in MS patients, with further researches needed to draw final conclusions. Nevertheless, the sum of research evidence reveals small but reliable and statistically significant reductions in depression levels in exercise participants with MS (Ensari et al., 2014).

According to Schüler et al. (2019) therapists of MS patients should also use psychology tools to change health behavior and be more aware of psychological theories that they should implement to optimize treatment approaches. Motl et al. (2018) call attention to the obvious disconnect that exists between the evidence of exercise benefits and the participation



rates in PA among people with MS. Thus, they propose that the lack of broad participation by individuals with MS despite existing evidence of meaningful exercise benefits can be improved only through the inclusion of behavior change theories in the design of the exercise programs that will implement these behavior theory interventions such as goal setting to increase PA behavior (Motl et al., 2018).

Sufficient evidence shows that exercise is effective for improving physical and psychological components that greatly influence health-related quality of life (Latimer-Cheung et al., 2013). In addition, recent research findings point out the usefulness of implementing behavior approaches such as the goal-setting used in this study, to increase exercise levels of MS patients and optimize physical and psychological outcomes (Casey et al., 2017).

Since MS treatment measures improve as the effectiveness of self-management improves (Marks et al., 2005), the findings of this study agree with Geurts et al. (2019) study revealing positive trends toward PA when participants with MS set personal goals, as well as the conclusion of Casey et al. (2017) meta-analysis that future PA interventions should continue to focus on psychosocial constructs such as goal-setting. Quite clearly, goal-setting is positively related to the increase in exercise levels of MS patients who are more likely to succeed when achieving self-selected goals (Bloom et al., 2006; Consolvo et al., 2009).

As for the role of SDT (Ryan & Deci, 2000) in this study, findings suggest its importance as a theoretical framework to improve MS patients' quality of life, since it satisfies the three basic psychological needs (autonomy, competence, relatedness) that lead to the adoption of a more physically active lifestyle. This hypothesis is also supported by the preliminary findings of the present intervention as presented in Karageorgou et al. (2022), which showed that exercise group participants with MS reported higher rates of leisure-time PA compared to non-exercisers. Finally, the present findings concerning quality of life of MS participants are in line with previous studies in the broader fields of exercise and health psychology that previously used SDT (Ryan & Deci, 2000) as a "vehicle" to help healthy individuals or patients to improve their PA levels and well-being (e.g., Fortier et al., 2012; Ng et al., 2012; Ntoumanis et al., 2021; Teixeira et al., 2012).

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the results of this study showed that the application of an exercise program combined with goal-setting strategies and the principles of SDT (Ryan & Deci, 2000) improved a number of significant features including physical functioning, vitality, emotional role, mental health, general mental health, depression and anxiety for the experiment group participants with MS, which are considered as the most important factors that determine the quality of life of MS individuals (Ysrraelit et al., 2018). According to Homayuni et al. (2021), to improve quality of life of MS patients, it is important to pay attention to factors such as leisure-time, positive thinking, and exercise.

Limitations of the present study include the small number of participants with MS and the use of self-report measurements. Therefore, future research with larger samples and different methodological procedures (e.g., semi-structured interviews) is needed to further investigate the effect of exercise on the MS patients' quality of life in combination with behavior change strategies (e.g., goal-setting) and theoretical frameworks (e.g., SDT; Ryan & Deci, 2000).

REFERENCES

1. Bailey, R. R. (2017). Goal setting and action planning for health behavior change. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, 13(6), 615-618. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1559827617729634>
2. Bjarnadottir, O. H., Konradsdottir, A. D., Reynisdottir, K., & Olafsson, E. (2007). Multiple sclerosis and brief moderate exercise. A randomised study. *Multiple sclerosis*, 13(6), 776-782. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458506073780>
3. Bloom, L. F., Lapierre, N. M., Wilson, K. G., Curran, D., DeForge, D. A., & Blackmer, J. (2006). Concordance in goal setting between patients with multiple sclerosis and their rehabilitation team. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, 85(10), 807-813. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.phm.0000237871.91829.30>
4. Brown, G., Leonard, C., & Arthur-Kelly, M. (2016). Writing SMARTER goals for professional learning and improving classroom practices. *Reflective Practice*, 17(5), 621-635.



- <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14623943.2016.1187120>
5. Buhse, M., Banker, W. M., & Clement, L. M. (2014). Factors associated with health-related quality of life among older people with multiple sclerosis. *International Journal of MS Care*, 16(1), 10-19. <https://doi.org/10.7224/1537-2073.2012-046>
 6. Casey, B., Coote, S., Shirazipour, C., Hannigan, A., Motl, R., Martin Ginis, K., & Latimer-Cheung, A. (2017). Modifiable psychosocial constructs associated with physical activity participation in people with multiple sclerosis: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 98(7), 1453-1475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2017.01.027>
 7. Compston, A., & Coles, A. (2008). Multiple sclerosis. *The Lancet (London, England)*, 372(9648), 1502-1517. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(08\)61620-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(08)61620-7)
 8. Consolvo, S., Klasnja, P., McDonald, D., & Landay, J. (2009). Goal-setting considerations for persuasive technologies that encourage physical activity. In *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Persuasive Technology - Persuasive '09*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1541948.1541960>
 9. Dalgas, U., Stenager, E., Jakobsen, J., Petersen, T., Hansen, H. J., Knudsen, C., Overgaard, K., & Ingemann-Hansen, T. (2010). Fatigue, mood and quality of life improve in MS patients after progressive resistance training. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 16(4), 480-490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458509360040>
 10. Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (2000). The "what" and "why" of goal pursuits: Human needs and the self-determination of behavior. *Psychological Inquiry*, 11(4), 227-268. https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327965PLI1104_01
 11. Ensari, I., Motl, R. W., & Pilutti, L. A. (2014). Exercise training improves depressive symptoms in people with multiple sclerosis: results of a meta-analysis. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 76(6), 465-471. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2014.03.014>
 12. Farmani, F., Taghavi, H., Fatemi, A., & Safavi, S. (2015). The efficacy of group reality therapy on reducing stress, anxiety and depression in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). *International Journal of Applied Behavioral Sciences*, 2(4), 33-38.
 13. Fortier, M. S., Duda, J. L., Guerin, E., & Teixeira, P. J. (2012). Promoting physical activity: development and testing of self-determination theory-based interventions. *The International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 9, 20. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1479-5868-9-20>
 14. Fruehwald, S., Loeffler-Stastka, H., Eher, R., Saletu, B., & Baumhackl, U. (2001). Depression and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*, 104(5), 257-261. <https://doi.org/10.1034/j.1600-0404.2001.00022.x>
 15. Garopoulou, B. (2012). *Physical activity and quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis (case study)*. Unpublished doctoral thesis. Thessaloniki.
 16. Geurts, ., Van Geel, F., Feys, P., & Coninx, K. (2019). WalkWithMe: Personalized goal setting and coaching for walking in people with multiple sclerosis. *Proceedings of the 27th ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization*, Larnaca, Cyprus.
 17. Grover, S. A., Sawicki, C. P., Kinnett-Hopkins, D., Finlayson, M., Schneiderman, J. E., Banwell, B., Till, C., Motl, R. W., & Yeh, E. A. (2016). Physical activity and its correlates in youth with multiple sclerosis. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 179, 197-203. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2016.08.104>
 18. Hadgkiss, E. J., Jelinek, G. A., Weiland, T. J., Pereira, N. G., Marck, C. H., & van der Meer, D. M. (2015). The association of diet with quality of life, disability, and relapse rate in an international sample of people with multiple sclerosis. *Nutritional Neuroscience*, 18(3), 125-136. <https://doi.org/10.1179/1476830514Y.0000000117>
 19. Hammer, A., Nilsagård, Y., Forsberg, A., Pepa, H., Skargren, E., & Oberg, B. (2005). Evaluation of therapeutic riding (Sweden)/hippotherapy (United States). A single-subject experimental design study replicated in eleven patients with multiple sclerosis. *Physiotherapy Theory and Practice*, 21(1), 51-77. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09593980590911525>
 20. Hatzigeorgiadis, A., Pappa, V., Tsiami, A., Tzatzaki, T., Georgakouli, K., Zourbanos, N.,



- Goudas, M., Chatzisarantis, N., & Theodorakis, Y. (2016). Self-regulation strategies may enhance the acute effect of exercise on smoking delay. *Addictive Behaviors*, *57*, 35-37. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2016.01.012>
21. Homayuni, A., Abedini, S., Hosseini, Z., Etemadifar, M., & Ghanbarnejad, A. (2021). Explaining the facilitators of quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis: a qualitative study. *BMC Neurology*, *21*(1), 193. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-021-02213-9>
 22. Honarmand, K., & Feinstein, A. (2009). Validation of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale for use with multiple sclerosis patients. *Multiple Sclerosis*, *15*(12), 1518-1524. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1352458509347150>
 23. Huisinga, J. M., Filipi, M. L., & Stergiou, N. (2011). Elliptical exercise improves fatigue ratings and quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, *48*(7), 881-890. <https://doi.org/10.1682/jrrd.2010.08.0152>
 24. Hunter, A., Marck, C. H., Butler, E., Allan, M., Edward, K. L., Giles, A., Kulkarni, J., Rajendran, D., Shaw, S., & Grech, L. B. (2021). Improving the detection and treatment of depression in Australians with multiple sclerosis: A qualitative analysis. *Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders*, *56*, 103290. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.msard.2021.103290>
 25. Jones, K. H., Ford, D. V., Jones, P. A., John, A., Middleton, R. M., Lockhart-Jones, H., Osborne, L. A., & Noble, J. G. (2012). A large-scale study of anxiety and depression in people with Multiple Sclerosis: a survey via the web portal of the UK MS Register. *PLoS one*, *7*(7), e41910. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0041910>
 26. Karageorgou, A., Kokaridas, D., Theodorakis, Y., Mousiolis, S., Patsiaouras, A. & Goudas, M. (2019). Comparative study of individuals with and without multiple sclerosis: Overall profile of quality of life, exercise, health behaviors. *International Journal of Sports Science and Physical Education*, *3*(4), 55-61.
 27. Karageorgou, A., Kokaridas, D., Theodorakis, Y., Goudas, M., Krommidas, C., Christodoulou, E., & Mousiolis, S. (2022). The effect of a combined exercise and goal setting program on physical activity levels, nutritional habits and smoking cessation of Greek patients with multiple sclerosis. *European Journal of Physical Education and Sport Science*, *8*(5), 1-14.
 28. Kargarfard, M., Etemadifar, M., Mehrabi, M., Maghzi, A. H., & Hayatbakhsh, M. R. (2012). Fatigue, depression, and health-related quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis in Isfahan, Iran. *European Journal of Neurology*, *19*(3), 431-437. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-1331.2011.03535.x>
 29. Karvonen, M. J., Kentala, E., & Mustala, O. (1957). The effects of training on heart rate; a longitudinal study. *Annales medicinae experimentalis et biologiae Fenniae*, *35*(3), 307-315.
 30. Kerling, A., Keweloh, K., Tegbur, U., Kück, M., Grams, L., Horstmann, H., & Windhagen, A. (2015). Effects of a short physical exercise intervention on patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, *16*(7), 15761-15775. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms160715761>
 31. Kastanias, T., & Tokmakidis, S. (2008). Exercise as a means of promoting functional capacity and quality of life in patients with multiple sclerosis. *Archives of Hellenic Medicine* *25*, 720-728.
 32. Koutsouraki, E., Aggouridaki, H., Theologou, A., Tsavdaridou, V., Aggelopoulos, P., & Baloyannis, S. (1998). Immunological markers in autoimmune neurological diseases. *Encephalos*, *35*, 106-110.
 33. Kutzelnigg, A., & Lassmann, H. (2014). Pathology of multiple sclerosis and related inflammatory demyelinating diseases. *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*, *122*, 15-58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-444-52001-2.00002-9>
 34. Latimer-Cheung, A. E., Pilutti, L. A., Hicks, A. L., Martin Ginis, K. A., Fenuta, A. M., MacKibbin, K. A., & Motl, R. W. (2013). Effects of exercise training on fitness, mobility, fatigue, and health-related quality of life among adults with multiple sclerosis: a systematic review to inform guideline development. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *94*(9), 1800-1828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2013.04.020>
 35. Langeskov-Christensen, M., Hvid, L. G., Jensen, H. B., Nielsen, H. H., Petersen, T., Stenager, E., & Dalgas, U. (2022). Efficacy of high-intensity aerobic exercise on common multiple sclerosis



- symptoms. *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*, 145(2), 229-238.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ane.13540>
36. Lawlor, K. B., & Hornyak, M. J. (2012). SMART goals: How the application of SMART goals contribute to achievement of student learning outcomes. *Developments in Business Simulation and Experiential Learning*, 39, 259-267.
37. Locke, E. A., & Latham, G. P. (2002). Building a practically useful theory of goal setting and task motivation. A 35-year odyssey. *The American Psychologist*, 57(9), 705-717.
<https://doi.org/10.1037//0003-066x.57.9.705>
38. Locke, E. A. & Latham, G. P. (2006). New directions in goal-setting theory. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15, 265-268.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8721.2006.00449.x>
39. MacLeod, L. (2012). Making SMART goals smarter. *Physician Executive*, 38(2), 68-72.
40. Makri, S. (2013). *Quality of life management of patients with multiple sclerosis*. Unpublished master thesis. University of Peloponnese.
41. Marck, C. H., Hadgkiss, E. J., Weiland, T. J., van der Meer, D. M., Pereira, N. G., & Jelinek, G. A. (2014). Physical activity and associated levels of disability and quality of life in people with multiple sclerosis: a large international survey. *BMC Neurology*, 14, 143.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2377-14-143>
42. Marks, R., Allegrante, J. P., & Lorig, K. (2005). A review and synthesis of research evidence for self-efficacy-enhancing interventions for reducing chronic disability: implications for health education practice (part II). *Health Promotion Practice*, 6(2), 148-156.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1524839904266792>
43. McEwan, D., Harden, S. M., Zumbo, B. D., Sylvester, B. D., Kaulius, M., Ruissen, G. R., Dowd, A. J., & Beauchamp, M. R. (2016). The effectiveness of multi-component goal setting interventions for changing physical activity behaviour: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Health Psychology Review*, 10(1), 67-88.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2015.1104258>
44. Michopoulos, I., Douzenis, A., Kalkavoura, C., Christodoulou, C., Michalopoulou, P., Kalemi, G., Fineti, K., Patapis, P., Protopapas, K., & Lykouras, L. (2008). Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS): validation in a Greek general hospital sample. *Annals of General Psychiatry*, 7, 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1744-859X-7-4>
45. Mostert, S., & Kesselring, J. (2002). Effects of a short-term exercise training program on aerobic fitness, fatigue, health perception and activity level of subjects with multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis*, 8(2), 161-168.
<https://doi.org/10.1191/1352458502ms779oa>
46. Motl, R. W., & McAuley, E. (2009). Pathways between physical activity and quality of life in adults with multiple sclerosis. *Health Psychology*, 28(6), 682-689.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/a0015985>
47. Motl, R. W., Pekmezi, D., & Wingo, B. C. (2018). Promotion of physical activity and exercise in multiple sclerosis: Importance of behavioral science and theory. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal - Experimental, Translational and Clinical*, 4(3), 2055217318786745.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2055217318786745>
48. Motl, R. W., & Snook, E. M. (2008). Physical activity, self-efficacy, and quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 35(1), 111-115.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-007-9006-7>
49. Ng, J. Y., Ntoumanis, N., Thøgersen-Ntoumani, C., Deci, E. L., Ryan, R. M., Duda, J. L., & Williams, G. C. (2012). Self-Determination Theory Applied to Health Contexts: A Meta-Analysis. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 7(4), 325-340.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691612447309>
50. Ntoumanis, N., Ng, J., Prestwich, A., Quested, E., Hancox, J. E., Thøgersen-Ntoumani, C., Deci, E. L., Ryan, R. M., Lonsdale, C., & Williams, G. C. (2021). A meta-analysis of self-determination theory-informed intervention studies in the health domain: effects on motivation, health behavior, physical, and psychological health. *Health Psychology Review*, 15(2), 214-244.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2020.1718529>
51. Pappa, E., Kontodimopoulos, N., & Niakas, D. (2005). Validating and norming of the Greek SF-36 Health Survey. *Quality of Life Research*, 14(5), 1433-1438.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-004-6014-y>



52. Pearson, E. S. (2012). Goal setting as a health behavior change strategy in overweight and obese adults: a systematic literature review examining intervention components. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 87(1), 32-42. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2011.07.018>
53. Ploughman, M., Wallack, E. M., Chatterjee, T., Kirkland, M. C., Curtis, M. E., & Health Lifestyle and Aging with MS Consortium (2020). Under-treated depression negatively impacts lifestyle behaviors, participation and health-related quality of life among older people with multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders*, 40, 101919. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.msard.2019.101919>
54. Polykandriotis, M., & Kyritsi, E. (2006). Quality of life of patients with multiple sclerosis. *Nursing*, 45(2), 207-214.
55. Rickards, H. (2005). *Women confronting the reality of multiple sclerosis: a qualitative model of self-healing*. PhD Thesis, Department of Health Promotion and Education, University of Utah.
56. Romberg, A., Virtanen, A., & Ruutiainen, J. (2005). Long-term exercise improves functional impairment but not quality of life in multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology*, 252(7), 839-845. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-005-0759-2>
57. Ryan, R. M., & Deci, E. L. (2000). Intrinsic and extrinsic motivations: Classic definitions and new directions. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 25(1), 54-67. <https://doi.org/10.1006/ceps.1999.1020>
58. Samartzis, L., Gavala, E., Zoukos, Y., Aspiotis, A., & Thomaidis, T. (2014). Perceived cognitive decline in multiple sclerosis impacts quality of life independently of depression. *Rehabilitation Research and Practice*, 2014, 128751. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/128751>
59. Schüler, J., Wolff, W., & Dettmers, C. (2019). Exercise in multiple sclerosis: Knowing is not enough-The crucial role of intention formation and intention realization. *Neurology and Therapy*, 8(1), 5-11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40120-019-0136-1>
60. Shilts, M. K., Horowitz, M., Townsend, M. S., Shilts, M. K., Horowitz, M., & Townsend, M. S. (2004). An innovative approach to goal setting for adolescents: guided goal setting. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 36(3), 155. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s1499-4046\(06\)60153-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s1499-4046(06)60153-x)
61. Siegert, R. J., & Abernethy, D. A. (2005). Depression in multiple sclerosis: a review. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 76(4), 469-475. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp.2004.054635>
62. Stroud, N. M., & Minahan, C. L. (2009). The impact of regular physical activity on fatigue, depression and quality of life in persons with multiple sclerosis. *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes*, 7, 68. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1477-7525-7-68>
63. Stuifbergen, A. K., & Becker, H. (2001). Health promotion practices in women with multiple sclerosis: increasing quality and years of healthy life. *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinics of North America*, 12(1), 9-22.
64. Swann, C., Rosenbaum, S., Lawrence, A., Vella, S.A., McEwan, D., & Ekkekakis, P. (2021). Updating goal-setting theory in physical activity promotion: a critical conceptual review. *Health Psychology Review*, 15(1), 34-50. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17437199.2019.1706616>
65. Tallner, A., Waschbisch, A., Hentschke, C., Pfeifer, K., & Mäurer, M. (2015). Mental health in multiple sclerosis patients without limitation of physical function: The role of physical activity. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 16(7), 14901-14911. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms160714901>
66. Teixeira, P. J., Carraça, E. V., Markland, D., Silva, M. N., & Ryan, R. M. (2012). Exercise, physical activity, and self-determination theory: a systematic review. *The International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 9, 78. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1479-5868-9-78>
67. Vozikis, A., & Sotiropoulou, E. (2012). Multiple sclerosis in Greece: An analysis of out-of-pocket payments. *Archives of Hellenic Medicine*, 29(4), 448-453.
68. Ware Jr, J. E., & Sherbourne, C. D. (1992). The MOS 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36): I. Conceptual framework and item selection. *Medical Care*, 30(6), 473-483.
69. Williams, S. L., & French, D. P. (2011). What are the most effective intervention techniques for changing physical activity self-efficacy and physical activity behaviour-and are they the



- same?. *Health Education Research*, 26(2), 308-322. <https://doi.org/10.1093/her/cyr005>
70. World Health Organization (1995). The World Health Organization Quality of Life assessment (WHOQOL): Position paper from the World Health Organization. (1995). *Social Science & Medicine*, 41(10), 1403-1409. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536\(95\)00112-k](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536(95)00112-k)
71. Ysraelit, M. C., Fiol, M. P., Gaitán, M. I., & Correale, J. (2018). Quality of life assessment in multiple sclerosis: Different perception between patients and neurologists. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 8, 729. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2017.00729>
72. Zigmond, A. S., & Snaith, R. P. (1983). The hospital anxiety and depression scale. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 67(6), 361-370. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0447.1983.tb09716.x>