

## **ASSESSMENT OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN MS PATIENTS IN CSONGRÁD-COUNTY, HUNGARY, BETWEEN 1993-2013**

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**Introduction:** Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune, inflammatory, neurodegenerative disease of the central nervous system. Classical descriptions of the disease state that it only affects the patients' quality of life but doesn't shorten their life expectancy. Epidemiological studies in the recent decade suggested that MS also shortens the duration of life by approximately 10 years.

**Goal:** We aimed to determine the causes of death and the number of years lost due to MS of our patients treated at the Department of Neurology between 1993-2013.

**Methods:** Data were collected from the MS register established at the Department in 1993. The causes of death were registered from the pathological records or the certificates of death. Data on the life expectancy of the general population were obtained from the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. We used SPSS 17.0 for the statistical analysis.

**Results:** Of the analysed 741 patients, 121 died, 64% from MS` direct consequences. The average age of the patients at death was 54.2 years (95% CI:52.0-56.5). No significant difference in survival was observed between the genders in the MS group. The difference in the ages at death as compared with the general population was significant ( $p < 0.001$ ): 10.4 years (95% CI:7.6-13.1).

**Discussion:** The leading cause of death (64%) was due to MS` direct affects, also our patients lost approximately 10.4 years compared to the general population due to the disease. These results - similarly to international findings - imply that MS means a very serious survival disadvantage.