

High-efficacy therapy found to cut disability progression in pediatric MS study

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Treatment of pediatric-onset relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis with high-efficacy therapy reduces the risk for transition across disability

states, according to a [study](#) published in the May issue of *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health*.

Sifat Sharmin, Ph.D., from the University of Melbourne in Australia, and colleagues examined how high-efficacy therapies influence transition across five disability states in individuals with pediatric-onset multiple [sclerosis](#). Data were included from 151 centers across 41 countries. People with onset of multiple sclerosis symptoms at younger than 18 years were included if they had a confirmed diagnosis of relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis and at least four Expanded Disability Status Scale scores recorded. Overall, 5,224 patients were included.

The researchers observed a reduction in the risk for disability worsening across the disability states with high-efficacy therapies. Compared with those who remained untreated, those treated with high-efficacy therapies while in the minimal disability state had the largest reduction (hazard ratio, 0.41).

There was a decline seen in the benefit of high-efficacy therapies with increasing disability. Compared with those who remained untreated, [young people](#) with minimal disability who received low-efficacy therapy also experienced a [reduced risk](#) for transitioning to mild disability (hazard ratio, 0.65).

"The new perspective presented here on the effect of early high-efficacy therapies for preserving neurological function among people with [pediatric-onset](#) multiple sclerosis provides a useful addition to the information guiding policy governing access to disease-modifying therapies in children with multiple sclerosis," the authors write.

More information: Sifat Sharmin et al, Disease-modifying therapies in managing disability worsening in paediatric-onset multiple sclerosis: a longitudinal analysis of global and national registries, *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* (2024). [DOI: 10.1016/S2352-4642\(24\)00047-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(24)00047-6)

E Ann Yeh, Real-life benefits of high-efficacy therapies for children with multiple sclerosis, *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* (2024). [DOI: 10.1016/S2352-4642\(24\)00074-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(24)00074-9)

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