

Patient Practices and Experiences During COVID-19 Among Individuals Across the United States Enrolled in MS LifeLines Patient Support Program

Jacqueline Nicholas,¹ deMauri S. Mackie,² Halley Costantino,² Lori Lebson,³ Emily Mulvihill,² Amy L. Phillips⁴

¹OhioHealth Multiple Sclerosis Center, Columbus, OH, USA; ²Cerner Enviza, Malvern, PA, USA; ³US Medical Affairs – Neurology & Immunology, EMD Serono, Inc., Rockland, MA, USA;

⁴Health Economics & Outcomes Research Data Generation & Analytics, EMD Serono, Inc., Rockland, MA, USA

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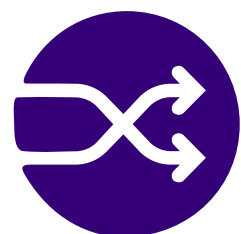
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Research into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the practices of people with MS around office visitation, protective actions, and vaccination is ongoing¹⁻⁶



OBJECTIVE

To present survey data exploring the COVID-19 practices and experiences of patients with MS enrolled in MS LifeLines, a patient-support program that provides ongoing education and support to patients for the duration of disease-modifying treatment



METHODS

Study population

- Enrollees from MS LifeLines were invited to participate in an internet-based survey if they:
 - self-reported physician-diagnosed relapsing MS
 - initiated cladribine tablets or are currently being treated with sc-IFN β 1a
 - were aged ≥ 18 years

Information and analysis

- Information collected included:
 - demographics
 - clinical characteristics
 - MS treatment and disease history
 - COVID-19 understanding, preventive measures, exposure, and vaccination experiences
- Findings were analyzed descriptively



RESULTS

- In total, 1095 patients from the US participated in the survey between May 12 and July 2, 2021 (**Table 1**)

Table 1. Patient characteristics

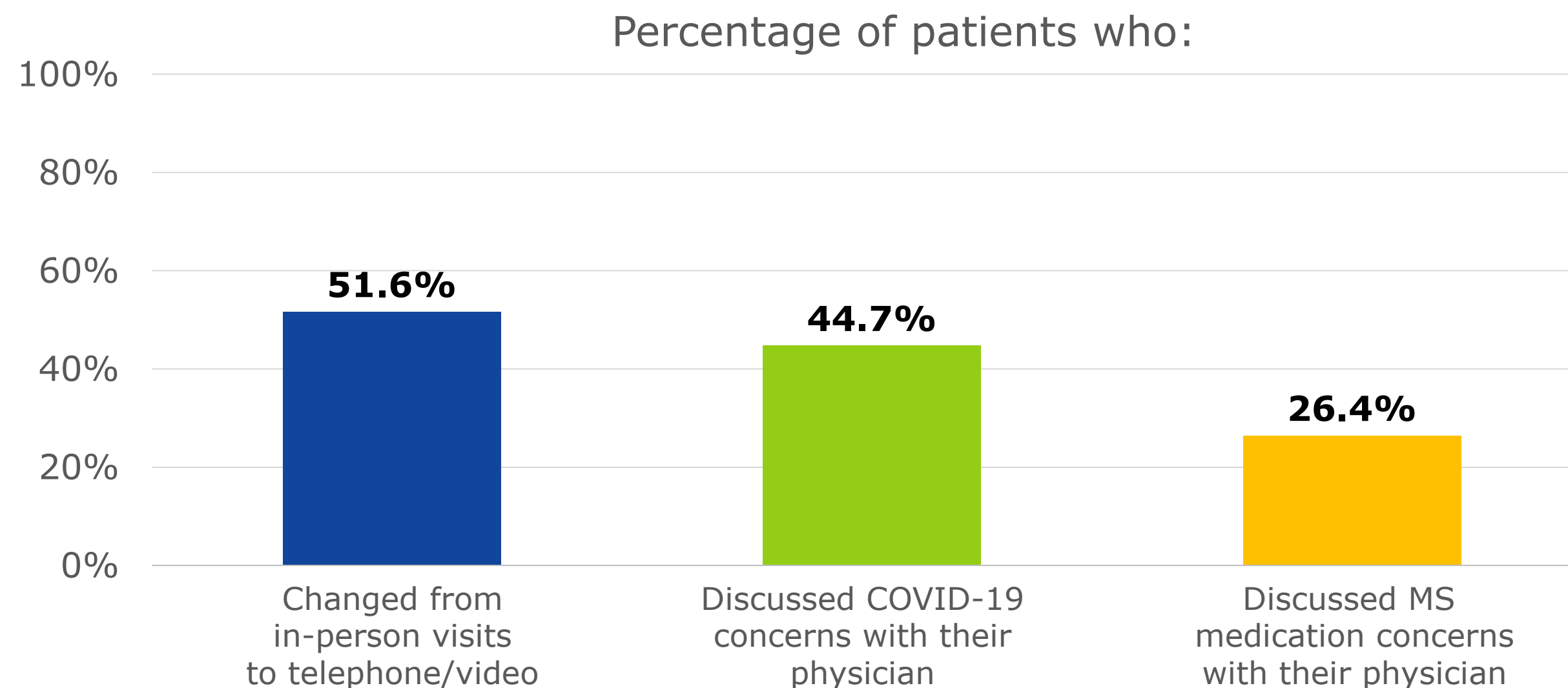
Characteristic	Patients (N=1095)
Treatment, n (%)	
Cladribine tablets	616 (56.3%)
sc-IFN β 1a	479 (43.7%)
Age, mean (SD)	50 (11.9)
Female, %	77.9%
Race, %	
Non-Hispanic White	76.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	9.4%
Hispanic	6.7%
Other	7.0%
Regions of the US, %	
South	34.8%
Midwest	29.9%
Northeast	18.0%
West	17.4%
CCI score, mean (SD)	0.41 (0.89)



RESULTS

- When asked how well they understood their risk of developing complications with COVID-19, 48.5% of patients responded, 'very well', and 26.6% responded, 'fairly well'
- Over half of patients with MS (51.6%) had changed from in-person visits to telephone/video, and 44.7% discussed concerns around COVID-19 (**Figure 1**)

Figure 1. Physician interactions

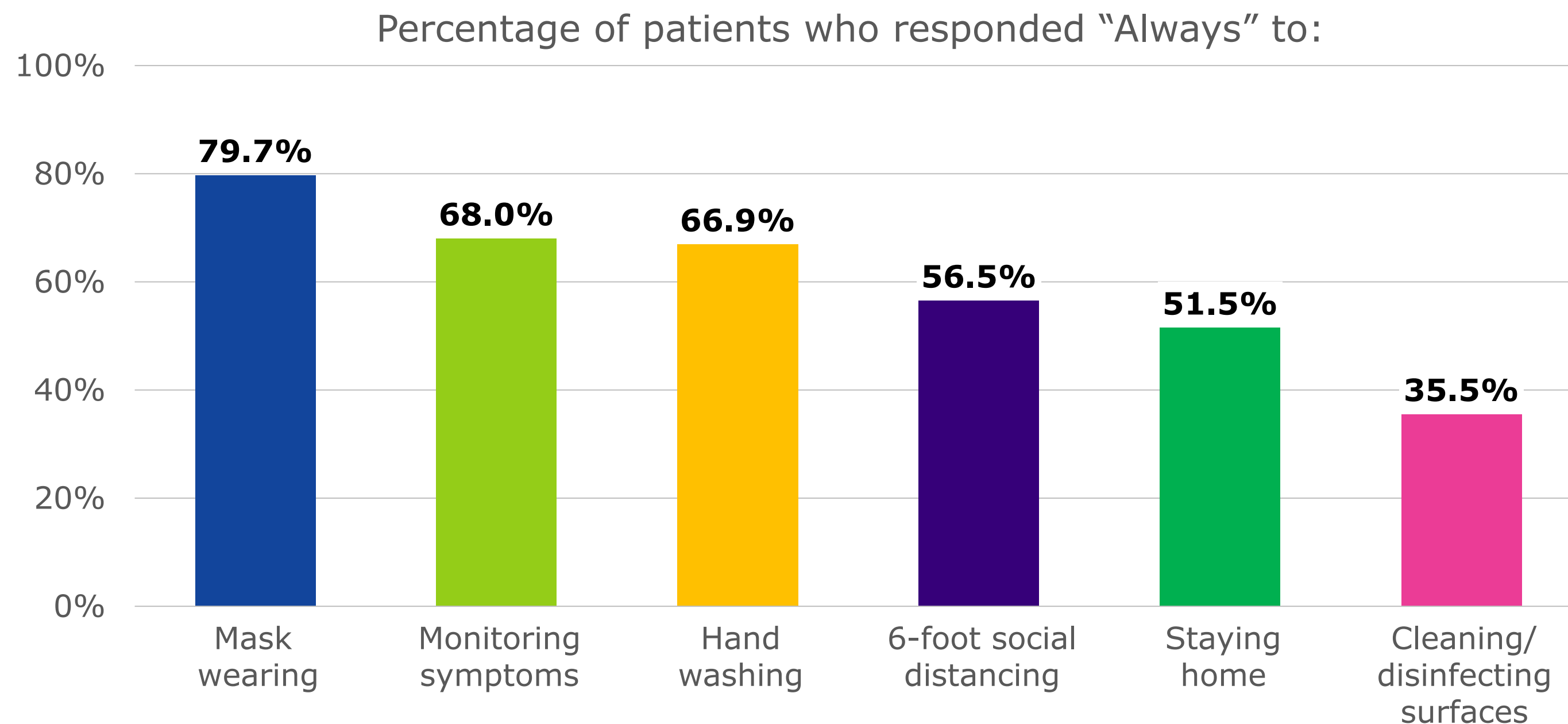




RESULTS

- COVID-19 preventive measures were widely practiced by patients with MS (**Figure 2**)

Figure 2. COVID-19 preventive measures

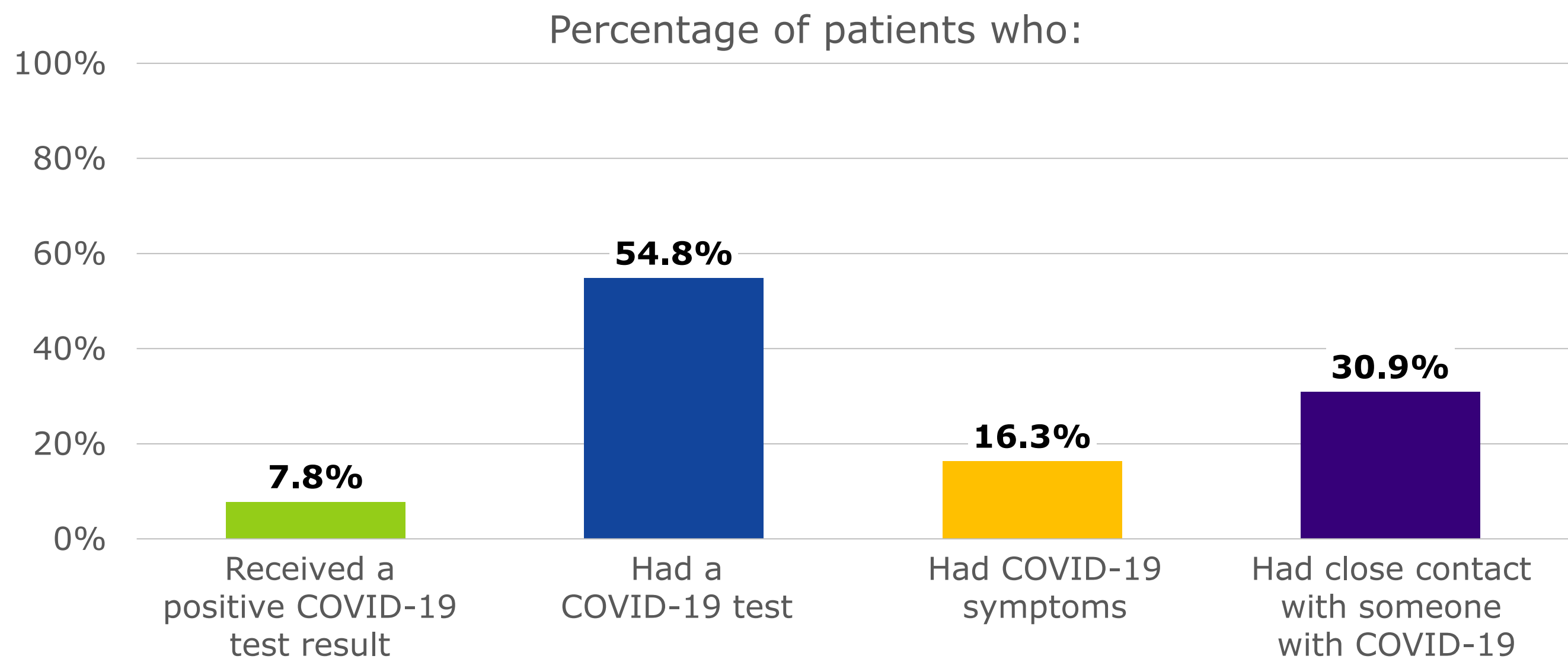




RESULTS

- For the total cohort, 7.8% received a positive COVID-19 test, 54.8% had a COVID-19 test, 16.3% had COVID-19 symptoms, and 30.9% had close contact with someone with COVID-19 (**Figure 3**)

Figure 3. COVID-19 testing and exposure



Patients can be included in more than one category.



RESULTS

- Most patients (74.6%) had already received COVID-19 vaccination (**Figure 4a**), and most (76.3%) had discussed COVID-19 vaccination with their physician (**Figure 4b**)

Figure 4a. Vaccination status

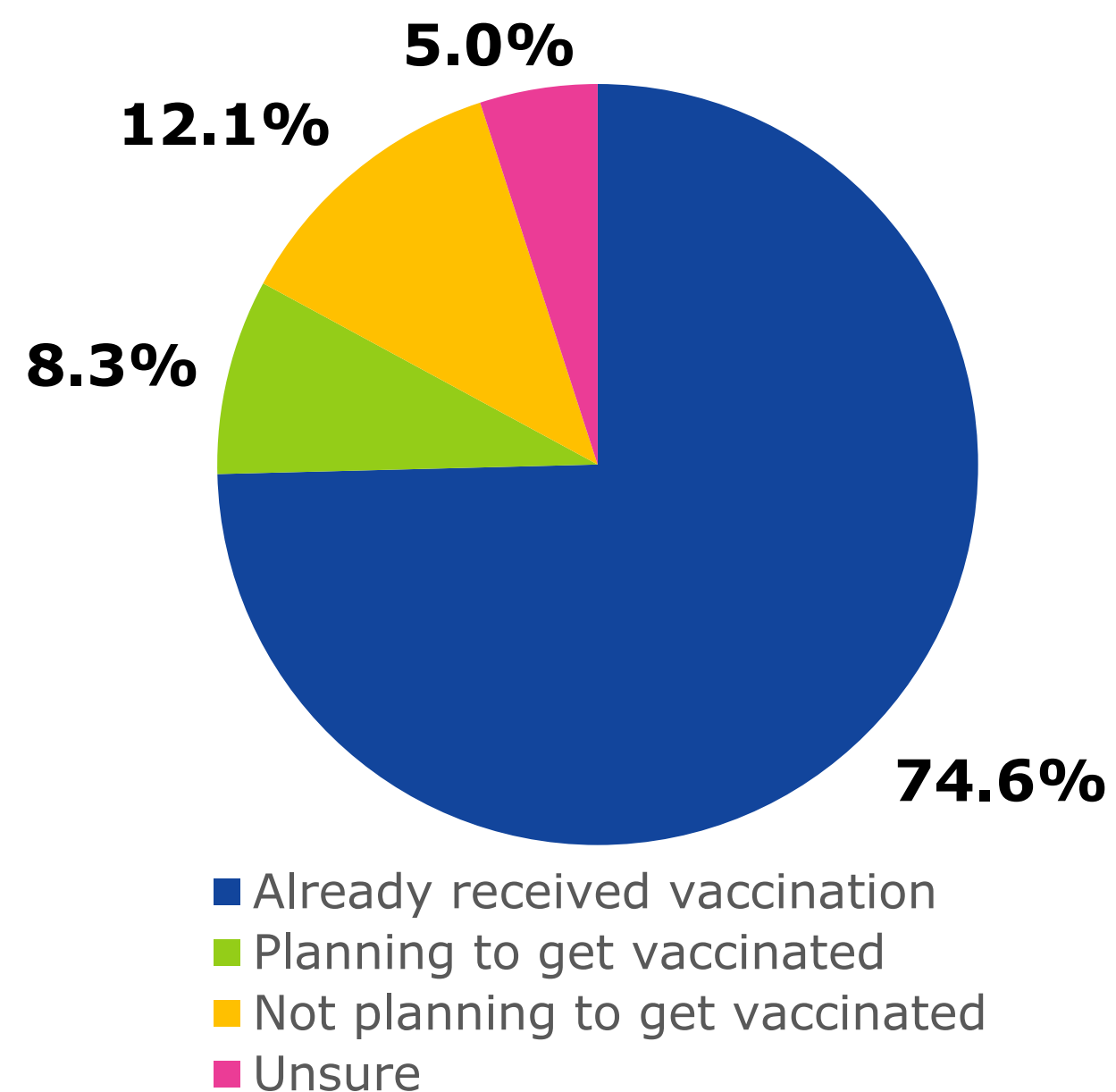
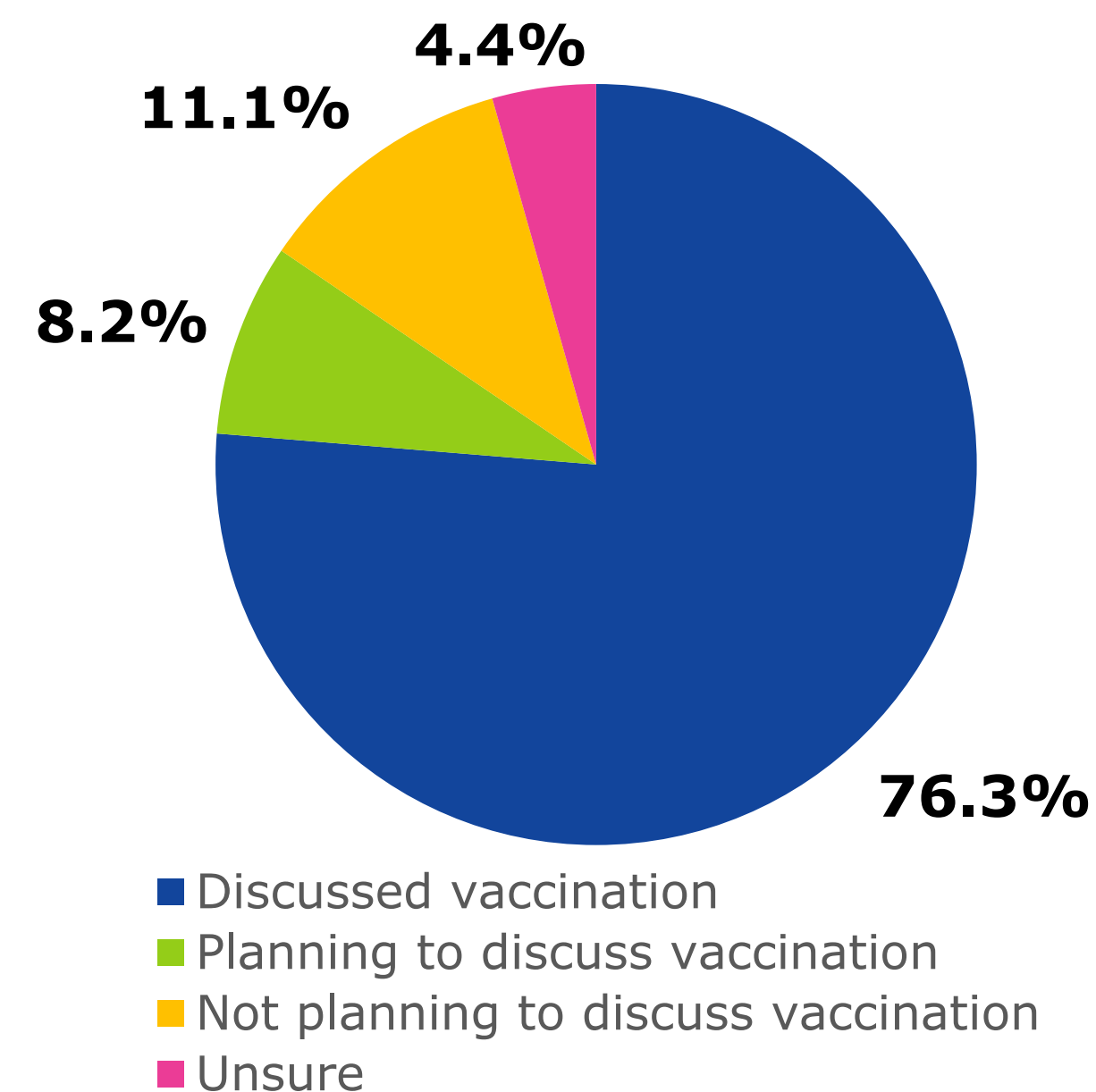


Figure 4b. Discussed vaccination with physician





CONCLUSIONS



COVID-19 preventive measures were widely practiced by patients with MS. Most patients had already received COVID-19 vaccination, and most had discussed COVID-19 vaccination with their physician



The findings provide insight into COVID-19 understanding, preventive measures, exposure, and vaccination experiences of patients with MS