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

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## 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

## INTRODUCTION

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the practices of people with MS around office visitation, protective actions, and vaccination is ongoing<sup>1-6</sup>

## 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 β1a
  - 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

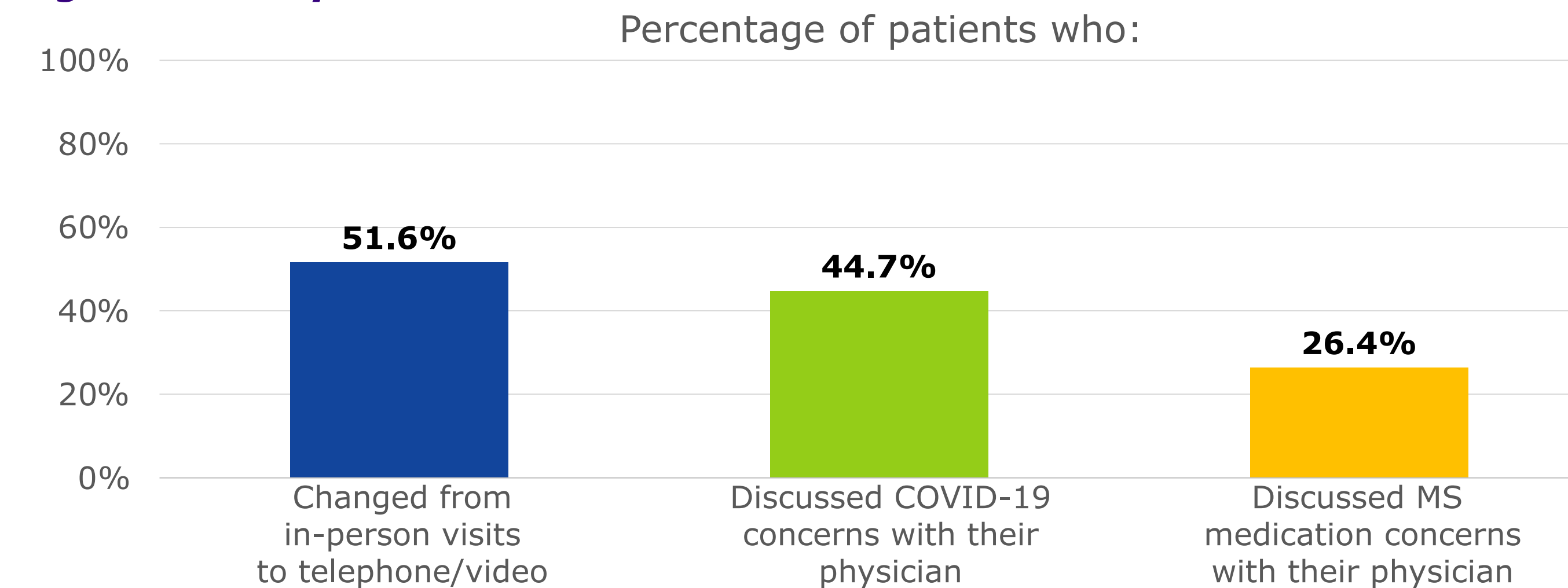
## RESULTS

- In total, 1095 patients from the US participated in the survey between May 12 and July 2, 2021 (**Table 1**)
- Patients' understanding of the risk of developing complications with COVID-19 were described as 'very well' (48.5%) or 'fairly well' (26.6%)
- 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**)
- COVID-19 preventive measures were widely practiced by patients with MS (**Figure 2**)
- 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**)
- 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**)

**Table 1. Patient characteristics**

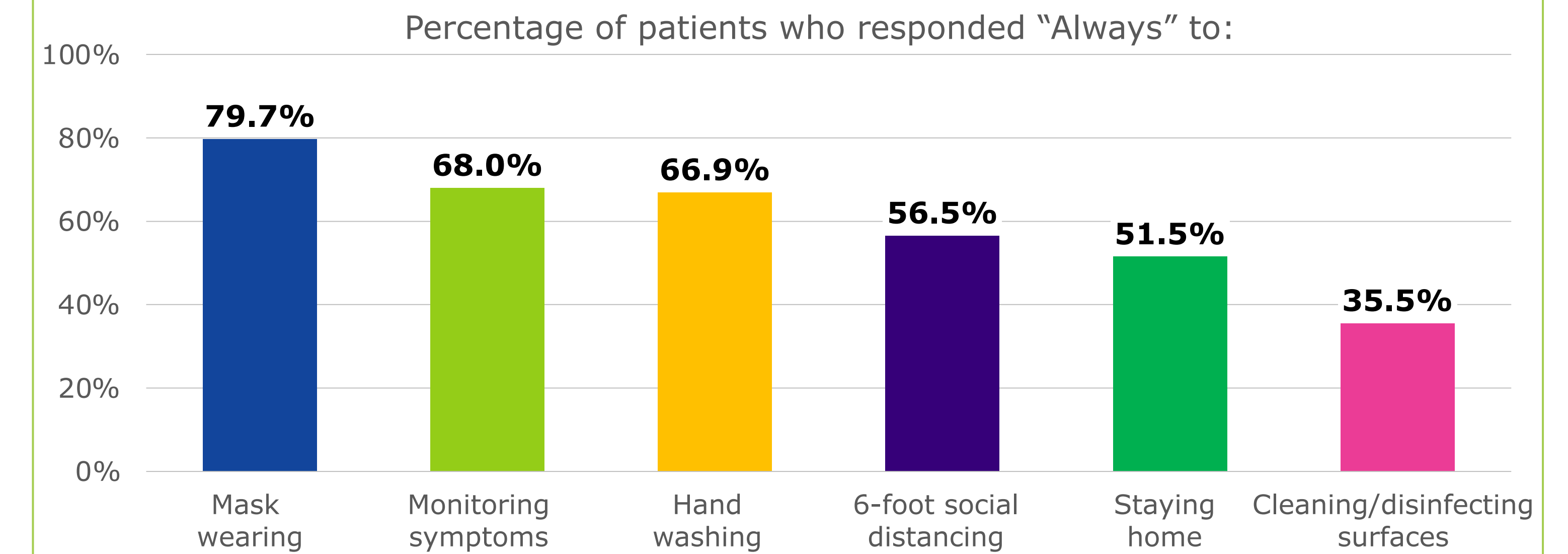
Characteristic	Patients (N=1095)
<b>Treatment, n (%)</b>	
Cladribine tablets	616 (56.3%)
sc-IFN β1a	479 (43.7%)
<b>Age, mean (SD)</b>	50 (11.9)
<b>Female, %</b>	77.9%
<b>Race, %</b>	
Non-Hispanic White	76.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	9.4%
Hispanic	6.7%
Other	7.0%
<b>Regions of the US, %</b>	
South	34.8%
Midwest	29.9%
Northeast	18.0%
West	17.4%
<b>CCI score, mean (SD)</b>	0.41 (0.89)

**Figure 1. Physician interactions**

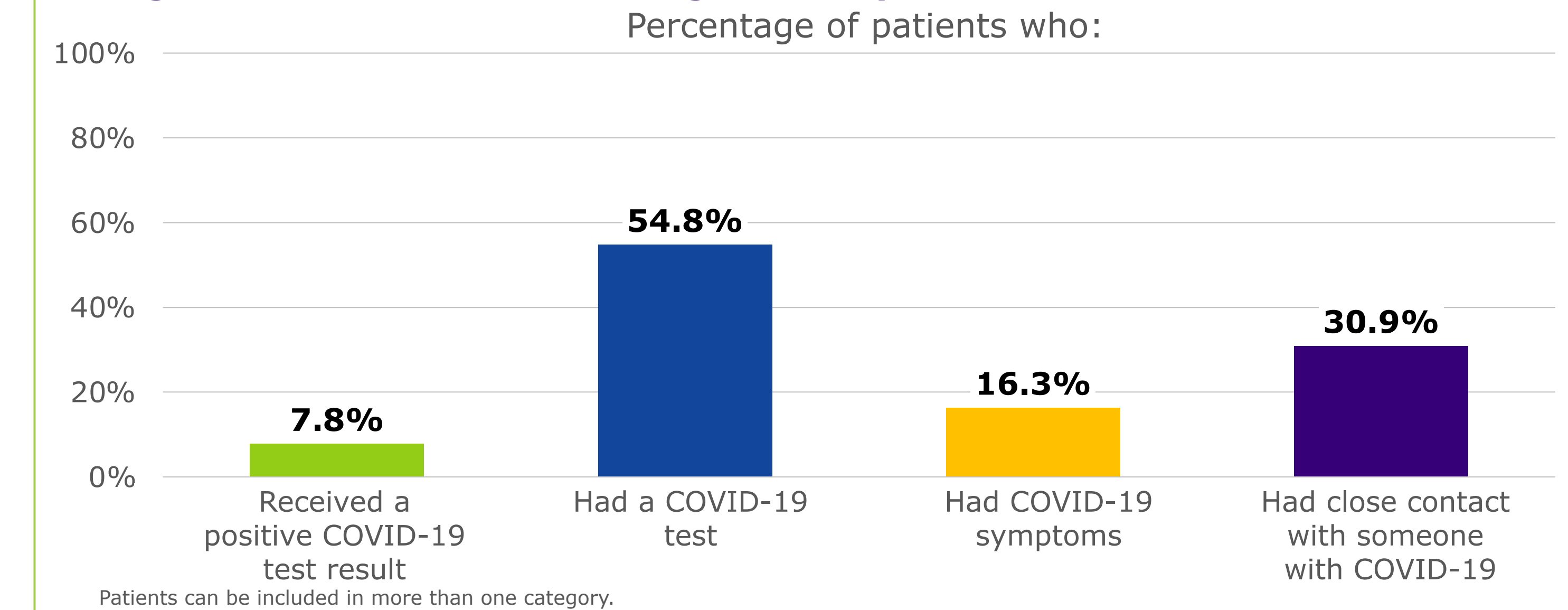


## RESULTS

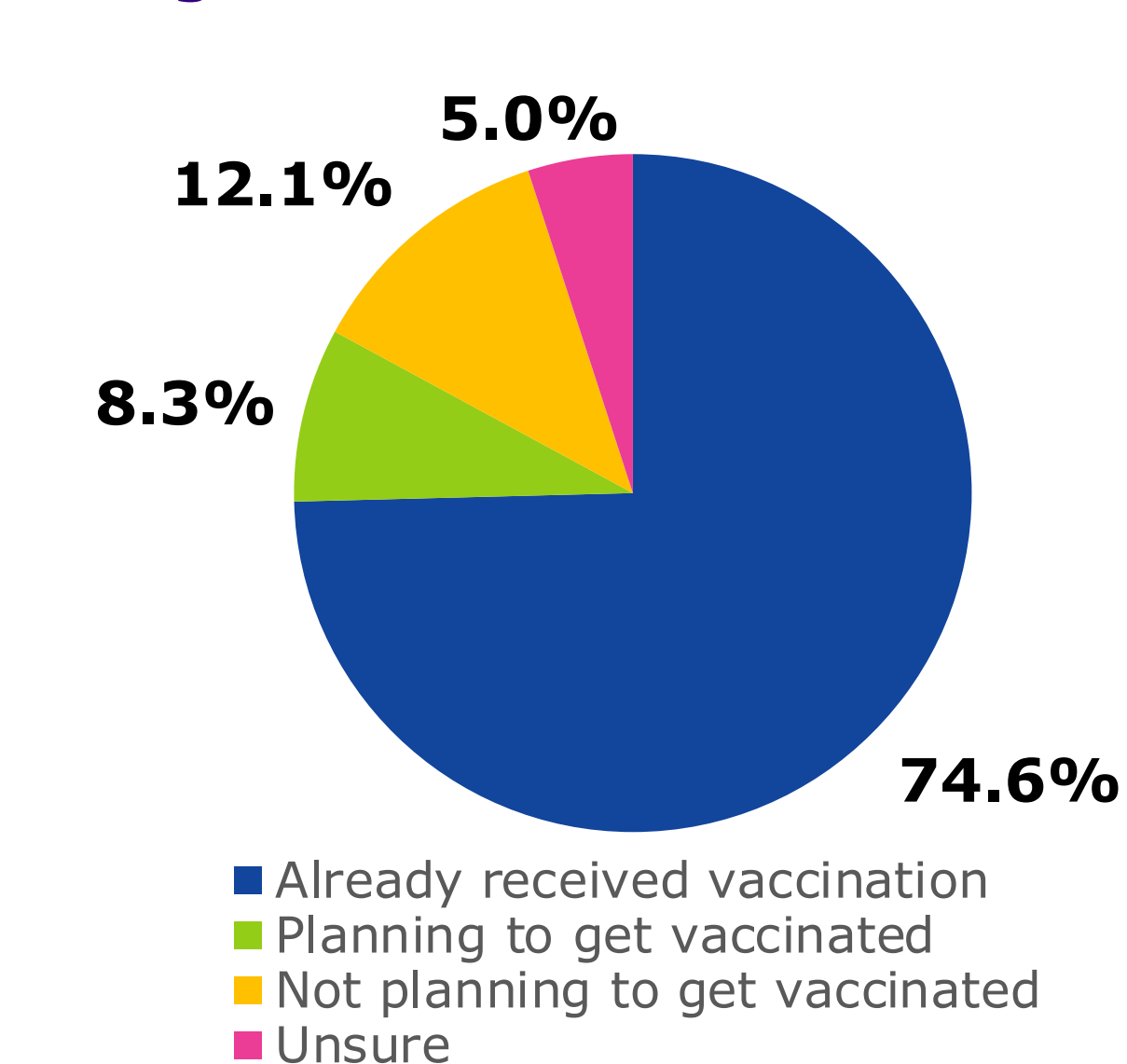
**Figure 2. COVID-19 preventive measures**



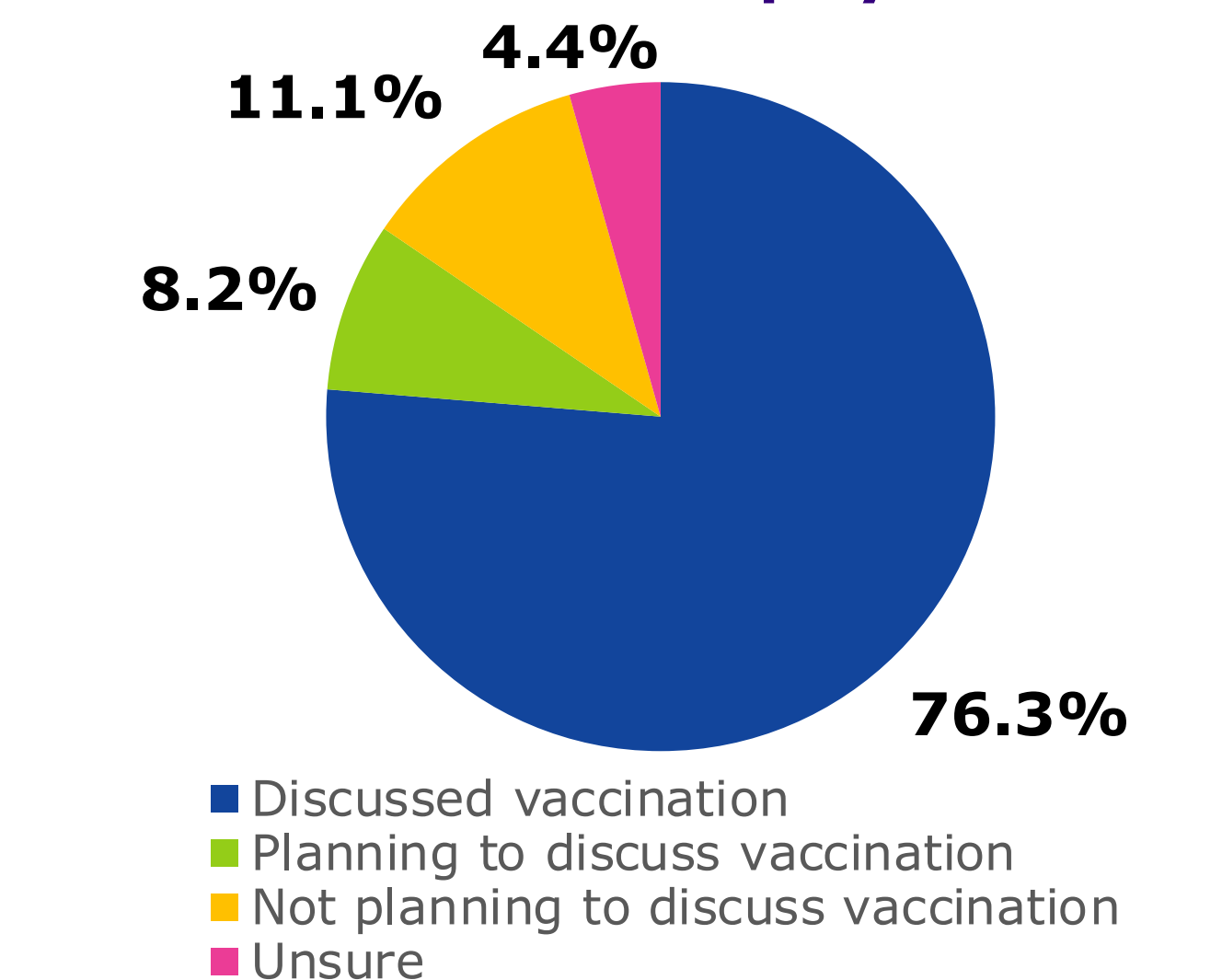
**Figure 3. COVID-19 testing and exposure**



**Figure 4a. Vaccination status**



**Figure 4b. Discussed vaccination with physician**



**Abbreviations:** CCI, Charlson Comorbidity Index; MS, multiple sclerosis; sc-IFN β1a, subcutaneous interferon beta-1a; SD, standard deviation. **References:** 1. McGinley MP, et al. *Telemed J E Health*. 2020;26(12):1537-1539; 2. Moss BP, et al. *Mult Scler*. 2020;26(10):1163-1171; 3. Uhr L, et al. *Mult Scler*. 2021;13524585211030647; 4. Ehde DM, et al. *Mult Scler Relat Disord*. 2021;54:103163; 5. Xian XM, et al. *Mult Scler J Exp Transl Clin*. 2021;7(2):20552173211017159; 6. Ehde DM, et al. *Mult Scler Relat Disord*. 2021;49:102788.

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