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Peer-reviewed author version

NEVEN, An; JANSSENS, Davy; WETS, Geert; Beirlant, K.; Willekens, B.; VAN  
ASCH, Paul; Vanlimbergen, P. & FEYS, Peter (2018) Influence of functioning and  
contextual factors on activity-related travel behaviour in Multiple Sclerosis. In:  
Journal of Transport & Health, 11, p. 100-109.

DOI: 10.1016/J.JTH.2018.10.006

Handle: <http://hdl.handle.net/1942/28083>

# **Influence of ~~health condition~~functioning and contextual factors on activity-related travel behaviour in Multiple Sclerosis**

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**Funding:** The study was financially supported by a PhD fellowship from the Research council of Hasselt University (BOF-grant).

**Conflicts of interest:** Publication is approved by all authors, who report no conflicts of interest.

**Acknowledgements:** The authors want to thank all PwMS for their voluntary participation. We also acknowledge Veronik Truyens and Greet Adriaenssens, heads of paramedical services of the Rehabilitation Center Overpelt and De Mick Rehabilitation Center Brasschaat, respectively, for facilitation of the study and patient recruitment; as well as vzw Lidwina for facilitation of patient recruitment.

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **OBJECTIVES:**

3 Activity-related travel behaviour is a prerequisite for participation. Knowledge about key  
4 factors influencing activity-related travel behaviour is necessary, in order to define  
5 guidelines for interventions to optimize this behaviour. The present study 1. investigated to  
6 which degree the activity-related travel behaviour in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) does decrease  
7 with increasing ambulatory dysfunction and 2. assessed the impact of health condition and  
8 contextual factors on activity-related travel behaviour in MS.

9 **METHODS:**

10 A convenience sample of 108 persons with MS was studied, distinguished in three disability  
11 subgroups based on Disease Steps (DS). Health condition was assessed by standardized  
12 clinical tests about physical, cognitive and psychosocial functioning. Contextual factors  
13 (personal and environmental) were collected. Activity-related travel diaries and GPS  
14 tracking devices were used to investigate activity-related travel behaviour in terms of  
15 number of trips and transport modes used. The influence of health condition measures and  
16 contextual factors with activity-related travel behaviour measures was analyzed using  
17 Spearman correlations and multiple linear regressions.

18 **RESULTS:**

19 1. Activity-related travel behaviour in MS decreased significantly with increasing  
20 ambulatory dysfunction. Significant changes were found regarding travel modes, number,  
21 type and planning of activities. 2. Activity-related travel behaviour in MS correlated with  
22 both health condition measures and contextual factors. A limited number of standardized  
23 tests of health condition and contextual factors (driving ability, household size) can predict  
24 activity-related travel behaviour in MS.

25 **CONCLUSIONS:**

26 Both health condition (mostly physical functioning) and contextual factors are predictive for  
27 activity-related travel behaviour in MS. Multi-disciplinary teams should include counselling  
28 on living situation and on advice regarding environmental factors. Policy makers should be  
29 recommended to integrate medical and other services in the community.

30

31 **Key words:** MS (Multiple sclerosis) – Participation – Travel - Activities of Daily Living

33 **1. INTRODUCTION**

34 Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a progressive inflammatory and neurodegenerative disease of the  
35 central nervous system, is characterized by various physical, cognitive and psychosocial  
36 impairments that may impede social participation. Indeed, difficulties with activities related  
37 to all aspects of daily life <sup>1-3</sup>, including its social and employment impact <sup>4-5</sup> and barriers  
38 obtaining adapted transportation <sup>6</sup>, were previously described in persons with MS (PwMS)  
39 by using self-report methods. Community walking and physical activity in PwMS was  
40 shown, by means of questionnaires and accelerometry, to be decreased <sup>7-8</sup>. Driving ability  
41 was investigated, mostly measured by tests in a driving simulator or by computerized driving  
42 tests, showing that PwMS performed worse than healthy controls on divided attention <sup>9</sup>, and  
43 that cognitive impairment negatively affected driving-related skills <sup>10</sup>.

44  
45 However, activity-related travel *behaviour* in MS in general, including the trips PwMS make  
46 in real-life, the use of travel modes (including trips by foot, bicycle, specialized transport,  
47 assistive devices), travelled distances, among others; has rarely been examined. Previous  
48 studies have been conducted with individuals after stroke by semi-structured interviews,  
49 indicating an affected use of modes of transport post-stroke <sup>11</sup>; but few data are available  
50 about the (changes in) activity-related travel behaviour in PwMS. Being able to travel is a  
51 prerequisite to participate in social life, as individuals have a need to perform activities,  
52 requiring travelling to the destination of this specific activity. If personal travel possibilities  
53 limit this participating, persons may suffer from inadequate integration on the labour market  
54 or other participation restrictions, with financial and social impact, leading to reduced quality  
55 of life (QoL).

56  
57 Activity-related travel behaviour in MS has only been documented in a small pilot study  
58 with 36 PwMS and 24 healthy controls <sup>12</sup>. It was shown that PwMS with mild ambulatory  
59 dysfunction had similar travel characteristics as healthy controls, while significant changes  
60 were detected in PwMS with more advanced stages of the disease. However, this descriptive  
61 study did not investigate the *determinants* of activity-related travel behaviour. Knowledge  
62 about these *key factors influencing changes in activity-related travel behaviour* is necessary  
63 in rehabilitation, in order to define guidelines for interventions to optimize this, with social  
64 participation enhancement as ultimate goal. Measures of the activity-related travel behaviour

65 may also be used as benchmarks in patients with different levels of ambulatory dysfunction,  
66 to detect whether patients are approximately participating as expected.

67

68 Previous studies in healthy persons found significant relationships between the activity-  
69 related travel behaviour and contextual (personal) factors like income level, age and  
70 household structure, among others <sup>13-14</sup>. Previous studies with persons after stroke as well  
71 indicated that contextual personal and environmental factors (e.g. lack of company)  
72 influenced outdoor walking post-stroke <sup>15</sup>. Therefore, we hypothesize that besides the health  
73 condition, also such contextual factors may impact the activity-related travel behaviour in  
74 MS.

75

76 Therefore, the present study 1. investigated to which degree the activity-related travel  
77 behaviour in MS does decrease with increasing ambulatory dysfunction. As well, this study  
78 2. assessed the impact of health condition (physical, cognitive and psychosocial functioning)  
79 as well as contextual factors (personal and environmental) on the activity-related travel  
80 behaviour in MS. Activity-related travel behaviour was measured in terms of number of trips  
81 and transport modes used (in)dependently in their usual environment. A trip means an  
82 *outdoor* displacement which is identified by a clear activity motive (e.g. working, shopping),  
83 and can consist of one or several travel modes.

84

## 85 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 86 ***2.1. Participants***

87 108 persons with clinical definite MS, based on Poser diagnostic criteria <sup>16</sup>, gave written  
88 informed consent and participated. The study was approved by the ethical committees of  
89 Hasselt University, Rehabilitation Center Overpelt, Antwerp University Hospital and  
90 National MS Centre Melsbroek. PwMS were recruited based on databases of the REVAL  
91 (Rehabilitation Research Center, UHasselt), by neurologists of the rehabilitation centers, and  
92 after information sessions in an MS-specialized fitness center (Fit Up, Kontich) and support  
93 groups of the MS Society Flanders. PwMS had to make minimal one trip weekly, and were  
94 excluded if they were bedridden, or had a relapse or related corticosteroid treatment within  
95 one month before the study.

96

97 PwMS were divided in three subgroups, according to their Disease Steps (DS) describing  
98 ambulatory dysfunction <sup>17</sup>. The DS is a simple and brief clinical rating scale, based on a  
99 general physical examination and the assistive devices needed to walk 25 feet. Persons in the  
100 ‘mild’ subgroup (DS  $\leq 2$ , n=51) experienced no to mild limitations or might have a visible  
101 abnormal gait, but did not require ambulation aids. Persons in the ‘moderate’ subgroup (DS  
102 3-4, n=27) required intermittent or continuous unilateral support to walk more than 25 feet;  
103 while persons in the ‘severe’ subgroup (DS 5-6, n=30) required bilateral support or were  
104 confined to a wheelchair. The division in subgroups indicated whether the number of trips,  
105 use of travel modes, type and planning of activities, among others; was dependent on the  
106 ambulatory dysfunction. The DS is highly associated with the EDSS (Expanded Disability  
107 Status Scale) <sup>18-19</sup>, but can also be completed by practitioners with the proper training. Since  
108 the present study is community-based by which recruitment was also made outside  
109 specialized MS centers, the EDSS was not always available in all patients, so the DS was  
110 then chosen.

111

## 112 ***2.2. Study design and outcome measures***

113 The cross-sectional study design was similar as in the preceding pilot study <sup>12</sup>. During the  
114 first individual contact moment with the PwMS, measures of physical, cognitive and  
115 psychosocial functioning were taken (health condition). Contextual (personal and  
116 environmental) data were collected by means of a questionnaire. Activity-related travel  
117 behaviour measures were thoroughly explained. Then, during 7 consecutive days, activity-  
118 related travel behaviour was measured by completing a travel diary and wearing a GPS  
119 logger. These devices were additionally explained in a self-written manual and a permanent  
120 helpline was available. In the second meeting, the self-report indices and the GPS logger  
121 were returned.

122

123 Outcome measures were applied on various levels of the International Classification of  
124 Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) <sup>20</sup>, the WHO framework for measuring health and  
125 disability. According to the ICF, disability is described as the interaction between features of  
126 the person (functioning), and the overall context in which the person lives (contextual  
127 factors). In the present study, we aim to assess the impact of both the health condition and  
128 contextual factors on the activity-related travel behaviour in MS. In this framework, health is  
129 defined as the complete physical, mental and social functioning of a person; by which

130 functioning refers either to all body functions and structures, activities and participation.  
131 Therefore, outcome measures on each of these ICF levels were applied in the present study  
132 in order to get a complete overview of the health condition of an individual: some measures  
133 were conducted on the body functions and structures level; some on the activity level  
134 (capacity - what a person can do in a standard environment); and others between the activity  
135 and participation level (performance - what a person actually does in his usual environment).  
136 An overview of the outcome measures used in this study, classified by the different levels of  
137 the ICF framework and along with its detailed ICF category, is shown in figure 1.

### 138 INSERT FIGURE 1

139

140 **Health condition:** In order to better understand the main focus of the outcome measures  
141 (applied on the different ICF levels), we have labeled the outcome measures of the health  
142 condition as being physical, cognitive, or psychosocial. These labels are also shown in figure  
143 1.

144

145 The multidimensional *Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite* (MSFC) measured the  
146 ambulation/leg function by the *Timed 25-Foot Walk test* (T25FW), the arm/hand function by  
147 the *9-Hole Peg test* (9HPT) and cognition by the *Paced Visual Serial Addition Test*  
148 (PVSAT) <sup>21</sup>. Intra- and inter-rater reliability of 0.99 and 1.0 <sup>22</sup>.

149

### 150 **Physical functioning:**

- 151 • During the T25FW, PwMS were instructed to walk 25 feet as quickly as possible, using  
152 their usual assistive devices. Intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.991 in PwMS <sup>23</sup>.
- 153 • The *Multiple Sclerosis Walking Scale* (MSWS-12) measured the impact of MS on  
154 walking ability. The scale consists of 12 items which are summed to generate a total  
155 score with range 0-100. Intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.927 in PwMS <sup>23</sup>.
- 156 • The 9HPT measured the time needed to put nine pegs in holes in a plastic board, and  
157 remove them again. Interrater reliability for right and left hands of  $r=0.984$  and  $r=0.993$   
158 <sup>24</sup>.
- 159 • The 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36) was used as self-assessment instrument for  
160 health related QoL, which yields an eight-scale profile of scores as well as physical and  
161 mental health summary measures. Reliability estimates for physical and mental summary  
162 scores usually exceed 0.90 <sup>25</sup>.

163 **Cognitive functioning:**

- 164 • The PVSAT measured working memory, attention and arithmetic capabilities  
165 (information processing speed). Persons were shown a number every three seconds and  
166 asked to say aloud the sum of the second last. There is a significant correlation between  
167 the PASAT (Paced Auditory Serial Addition Test) and the PVSAT, the latter considered  
168 as useful alternative in the MSFC. Interrate reliability between 0.76-0.95; and test-retest  
169 coefficients for short and long test-retest intervals between 0.90-0.97 <sup>26</sup>.
- 170 • The *Trail Making Test* (TMT), measuring visual attention and task switching, recorded  
171 the time persons needed to connect 25 consecutive dots on a sheet of paper (numbers in  
172 Part A, numbers/letters in Part B). Retest reliability of TMT A and TMT B between  
173 0.76-0.89, and 0.86-0.94 <sup>27</sup>.

174

175 **Psychosocial functioning:**

- 176 • The impact of fatigue on daily functioning was measured by the *Modified Fatigue*  
177 *Impact Scale* (MFIS), an ordinal outcome measure. Dutch version of the MFIS has  
178 intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.729 <sup>28</sup>.
- 179 • The level of depression and anxiety was measured by the *Hospital Anxiety and*  
180 *Depression Scale* (HADS). A threshold score of  $\geq 8$  on the depression subscale provides  
181 a sensitivity of 90% and specificity of 87.3% in PwMS. The same cut-off score gives a  
182 sensitivity of 88.5% and a specificity of 80.7% on the anxiety subscale for generalized  
183 anxiety disorder <sup>29</sup>.
- 184 • The *Frenchay Activities Index* (FAI) measured instrumental activities of daily living  
185 (ADL; e.g. housework, activities outside) which required some initiative from the patient  
186 in the last three and six months. Test-retest reliability of 0.96 in the general population <sup>30</sup>.
- 187 • The mental health summary measure of the SF-36 is labeled as psychosocial functioning.

188

189 Health condition of PwMS by subgroup is shown in table 1, in terms of physical, cognitive  
190 and psychosocial functioning.

191 **INSERT TABLE 1**

192

193 **Contextual factors:** Participants completed a questionnaire about their personal (socio-  
194 demographic) situation, e.g. age, education and household. The environmental situation was  
195 queried by asking the degree of urbanization (rural areas, regional urban areas,...); as well as



196 questions about the distance to the nearest bus stop from the home location (0-500m, 500m-  
197 1km, 1km-5km, >5km), and the distances to family, friends, shops and rehabilitation  
198 (physiotherapist, specialized MS center) (0-500m, 500m-1km, 1km-5km, 5km-10km, 10km-  
199 20km, >10km). Contextual factors are summarized in table 2.

## 200 **INSERT TABLE 2**

201

202 **Activity-related travel behaviour:** Both self-reported activity-related travel diaries and  
203 objective GPS tracking devices were used <sup>12,31</sup>. In the diaries, persons had to indicate all  
204 information about their outdoor activities (e.g. activity type, start time and location) and  
205 resulting trips (e.g. travel mode and company). Participants were asked to carry out the GPS  
206 logger for each trip, by which the current location could be determined and saved in  
207 memory. This combination offered detailed information about the actual activity-related  
208 travel behaviour in PwMS: the travel diaries revealed information on the activity types,  
209 while GPS logging (TranSystem Inc., Hsinchu, Taiwan)<sup>a</sup> allowed obtaining accurate  
210 information about travelled routes (e.g. distances), as well as detecting and complementing  
211 trips that were not filled out in the travel diaries. In order to limit the day-to-day variability  
212 in health condition or in number of external appointments, we have measured during 7  
213 consecutive days including both week and weekend days, identical to guidelines of  
214 measuring walking behaviour and physical activity in MS <sup>32</sup>. The outcome measures that  
215 were analyzed were: number of trips and activities, travel mode, number of persons, average  
216 distances, type and planning of activities, and average duration of activities.

217

### 218 **2.3. Statistical analysis**

219 Numerical data were analyzed using SPSS Statistics (p <0.05).

220 **1. Changes in activity-related travel behaviour:** Descriptive analyses were used for the  
221 standardized tests of the health condition (presented as median and interquartile range (IQR))  
222 and travel diaries (presented as means, SDs and range). The Shapiro-Wilk test indicated non-  
223 normal distributions of most health condition variables and therefore, non-parametric  
224 Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance (ANOVA), and post-hoc Mann-Whitney tests for  
225 independent samples, were used to examine differences between disability subgroups,  
226 regarding both the health condition variables and the activity-related travel behaviour.

227

228 **2. Assessing the impact of health condition and contextual factors:** Bivariate Spearman  
229 correlation coefficients were calculated to assess the level of association between the travel  
230 outcome measures (number of trips, number of trips made alone, number of trips as car  
231 driver), and both the health condition variables and the contextual variables. Hereby, a  
232 correlation was considered as poor (<0.30), low (0.30-0.50), moderate (0.50-0.70), high  
233 (0.70-0.89), or very high (>0.90). To investigate the predictability of the travel outcome  
234 measures by both the health condition variables and the contextual variables, multiple  
235 regression analyses with a forward stepwise selection procedure were performed. The  
236 highest correlating significant variables (of the health condition and contextual variables)  
237 were included as independent variables, and the travel outcome measures as dependent  
238 variables. Multicollinearity was checked for all models.

239

## 240 **3. RESULTS**

### 241 ***3.1. Description of subgroups***

242 The overall significant disparity among subgroups justified the selected cut-off scores 2 and  
243 5 (DS) for differentiating between patients with various ambulatory dysfunction (table 1).  
244 Significant differences were found in disease duration, MSFC, all physical and cognitive  
245 functioning measures and almost all psychosocial functioning measures. Fatigue was  
246 significantly higher in the moderate subgroup.

247

### 248 ***3.2. Changes in activity-related travel behaviour***

249 Table 3 presents the travel outcomes measures. Significant differences between subgroups  
250 were found regarding the number of trips and associating travel mode, and the number, type  
251 and planning of activities. PwMS in the mild subgroup made significantly more trips and had  
252 a higher share of working trips, and a lower share of social and leisure trips. Both  
253 participants in the mild and moderate subgroup made more trips as car driver or with non-  
254 motorized travel modes, and performed more bring/get activities. PwMS in the severe  
255 subgroup made a high number of trips for rehabilitation, and made more use of assistive  
256 devices or adapted transport, while their activities were less spontaneously.

257 **INSERT TABLE 3**

258

259

260

### 261 **3.3. Assessing the impact of health condition and contextual factors**

262 Table 4 displays the correlation coefficients between the travel outcome measures (number  
263 of trips per day, number of trips made alone, number of trips as car driver) and both the  
264 health condition and the contextual variables. These travel outcome measures were selected  
265 because they demonstrate if a person can travel independently. Within the total sample, *the*  
266 *total number of trips* correlated moderately negative with the ambulatory dysfunction ( $r=-$   
267  $0.52$ ) as measured by the Disease Steps; and positive with the walking ability (T25FW -  
268  $r=0.56$ ). The total number of trips was lowly correlated with the upper extremity function  
269 (9HPT); with the physical part of the health-related QoL (SF36); with divided attention  
270 (TMT); and with the frequency of instrumental ADL (FAI). Personal variables correlated  
271 poor to low with the total number of trips: negative correlation with age; and positive  
272 correlations with education, driving ability, household size and housing type. Associations  
273 with environmental factors were absent. The significance level and magnitude of the  
274 correlation coefficients were dissimilar among subgroups. In the mild subgroup, the  
275 frequency of instrumental ADL (FAI), the educational degree and household size correlated  
276 lowly positive with the total number of trips; and the distance to friends and shops  
277 negatively. In the moderate subgroup, moderate negative association values were found for  
278 the upper extremity function (9HPT) and the distance to the nearest bus stop. In the severe  
279 subgroup, the distance to rehabilitation services correlated negatively ( $r=-0.48$ ) with the total  
280 number of trips.

281

282 *Trips made alone* (independently) correlated with the majority of the health condition  
283 measures in the total sample, except for information processing speed (PVSAT), the level of  
284 anxiety and depression (HADS) and the mental part of the health-related QoL (SF36 mental  
285 subscore). The number of trips made alone also correlated with some personal factors:  
286 negative correlation with age; and positive correlation with education and work situation.

287

288 Regarding *the number of trips as car driver*, all physical and cognitive outcome measures  
289 correlated significantly in the total sample (walking ability, upper extremity function,  
290 divided attention and information processing speed), while there was no significant influence  
291 of the level of fatigue, anxiety or depression (psychosocial functioning). There was a  
292 moderately positive correlation with the driving ability ( $r=0.65$ ), as well a significant (lower)  
293 correlation with the household size and degree of urbanization.

294 **INSERT TABLE 4**

295 Table 5 shows the results of the multiple linear regression analyses, performed within the  
296 total sample. The walking ability (T25FW) and the frequency of instrumental ADL (FAI)  
297 were significant predictors in both the total number of trips and the number of trips made  
298 alone. The total number of trips, and those as car driver, were, among others, determined by  
299 the household size. The daily number of trips made alone could be predicted by only the  
300 physical functioning component of the health condition (T25FW and FAI). Overall, the  
301 models better explained variability in the total number of trips, and the number of trips as car  
302 driver (respectively 39.4% and 37.6%), which were the models with besides health condition  
303 variables also contextual factors as significant predictors.

304 **INSERT TABLE 5**

305

#### 306 **4. DISCUSSION**

307 The present study 1. investigated to which degree the activity-related travel behaviour in MS  
308 does decrease with increasing ambulatory dysfunction, and 2. assessed the impact of health  
309 condition (physical, cognitive and psychosocial functioning) and contextual factors (personal  
310 and environmental) on the activity-related travel behaviour in MS. This study demonstrated  
311 that PwMS with moderate to severe ambulatory dysfunction showed significant decreased  
312 activity-related travel behaviour compared to those with mild dysfunction, confirming  
313 previous pilot findings <sup>12</sup> and literature about daily activities and employment <sup>2-3,5</sup>.  
314 Generally, the number of trips correlated with health condition variables as well as  
315 contextual factors.

316

317 The overall significant associations with the physical functioning measures indicated that the  
318 number of trips decreased with increasing ambulatory dysfunction. The 9HPT showed  
319 negative correlations, confirming that manual dexterity was also a good predictor of activity  
320 and/or participation in MS <sup>33</sup>. Previous studies showed a relation between cognitive tests and  
321 impaired driving ability <sup>10,34-35</sup>; but the relation between cognitive function and activity-  
322 related travel behaviour was less obvious in the present study. Information processing speed  
323 (PVSAT) was not consistently related to the total number of trips. The fact that a decreased  
324 processing speed has no significant impact on the activity-related travel behaviour, may be  
325 explained by the ‘compensating’ behavioural strategies of the participants: the results show  
326 that the majority of the trips is planned beforehand, averages distances are relatively small,

327 and almost half of the trips is made with company. On the other hand, the TMT was  
328 significantly associated with the number of trips (in total, made alone and as car driver),  
329 indicating that visual attention and task switching plays an important role in the activity-  
330 related travel behaviour in MS. Persons suffering from this subdomain of cognitive  
331 dysfunction may have difficulties with organizing multiple activities on a single day; leading  
332 to a decreased number of trips. Both tests measured different subdomains of cognition, with  
333 apparently varying impact on activity-related travel behaviour. Besides cognitive function,  
334 previous studies found that psychosocial components like fatigue <sup>36</sup> and anxiety <sup>9</sup> affected  
335 driving ability in MS; but those were also not significantly related with the number of trips  
336 (in total neither as car driver) in the present study. It is conceivable that contextual personal  
337 factors, like social support from household members, may prevent that specific cognitive or  
338 psychosocial functioning problems (e.g. decreased processing speed or anxiety feelings)  
339 would lead to a decreased activity-related travel behaviour. Indeed, the household size  
340 seemed influential for the number of trips in the present study, which can be explained by  
341 the fact that households with children, affect individual activity-related travel behaviour <sup>37</sup>.

342

343 In the moderate subgroup, a moderate correlation was found between the total number of  
344 trips and the distance to the nearest bus stop. Although Flemish legislation, based on the  
345 urbanization degree, restricts the maximal distance between the home location and the  
346 nearest bus stop that needs to be travelled (500-750m), our results may indicate that more  
347 physically impaired PwMS were not able to cover these distances. To obtain an increased  
348 use of public transport by PwMS, it is therefore important that the accessibility to the stops is  
349 improved, e.g. by providing stops closer to the residence of physically impaired persons. A  
350 high number of trips in the severe subgroup were made for rehabilitation. However, PwMS  
351 living farther away from these rehabilitation services had a lower probability of going to  
352 these services, indirectly confirming previous findings <sup>12,38</sup>. In the mild subgroup, the  
353 number of trips was dependent on the distance to friends or the nearest shops. Similarly,  
354 these destinations were visited more frequently if they were located closer. Thus, also  
355 contextual environmental factors (e.g. distances to bus stops or to family or services), may  
356 influence the activity-related travel in behaviour in MS. Therefore, enhancing community  
357 environments (i.e. integrating medical and other services in the community) could be  
358 considered as approach to increase the social participation in MS. Patients could also be

359 advised to consider moving to a housing location closer to medical and rehabilitation  
360 services for optimal use.

361 The multiple regression analyses confirmed that, to measure the activity-related travel  
362 behaviour in MS, it is important to take into account not only the health condition (mostly  
363 physical functioning), but as well contextual factors. The distance to specific facilities or to  
364 family or friends, significantly influences the number of (independent) trips. Respondents  
365 were recruited in both rural and urban areas in various provinces in Flanders, and living in  
366 both residential and community settings. As well, the disability distribution of PwMS was in  
367 line with that of disease severity in Flanders <sup>39</sup>.

368

## 369 **5. CONCLUSIONS**

370 In conclusion, measuring activity-related travel behaviour in persons with neurological  
371 conditions seems essential in rehabilitation, given that its goal is to improve activity and  
372 participation in daily life. In order to enhance social participation, the present study has  
373 demonstrated, besides mainly (physical functioning components of the) health condition,  
374 potential contextual personal and environmental key factors. Based on the present study,  
375 multi-disciplinary teams should include counselling on living situation or on advice  
376 regarding environmental factors. In this study performed in Flanders, environmental factors,  
377 e.g. the distance to facilities, were shown to influence the activity-related travel behaviour.  
378 Previously, environmental facilities were similarly related to levels of physical activity <sup>40</sup>.  
379 The present results should also motivate policy makers to integrate medical and other  
380 services in the community. Eventually, nearby friends and family appeared also key factors  
381 in order to enhance participation.

382

383 The supplied results of activity-related travel behaviour may also be used as benchmarks in  
384 patients with different levels of ambulatory dysfunction, to detect whether patients are  
385 approximately participating as expected.

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489

490 **Suppliers**

491 <sup>a</sup> 747Pro GPS logger, TranSystem Inc., Hsinchu, Taiwan. [service@transystem.com.tw](mailto:service@transystem.com.tw)

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494 **TITLES OF TABLES**

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504 Figure 1. – Outcome measures used in this study classified by the ICF framework

505 Outcome measures: DS, Disease Steps; SF-36, 36-item short-form health survey; MFIS, Modified Fatigue  
Impact Scale; HADS, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; T25FW, Timed 25-Foot Walk test; 9HPT, 9-  
Hole Peg Test; TMT, Trail Making Test; PVSAT, Paced Visual Serial Addition Test; MSWS-12, Multiple  
Sclerosis Walking Scale; FAI, Frenchay Activities Index.

**FUNCTIONING**  
Disease: **Multiple Sclerosis**



**CONTEXTUAL FACTORS**

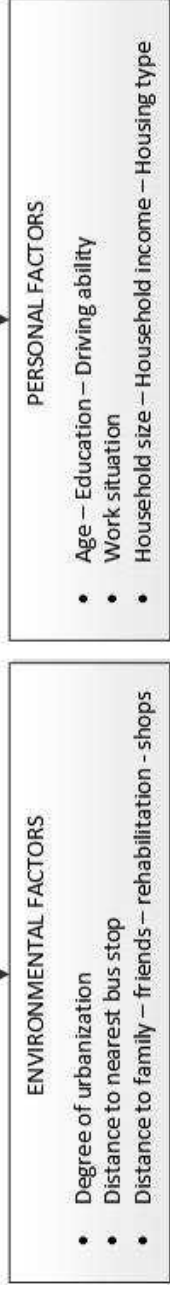


Table 1: ~~Health condition~~ Functioning of PwMS by subgroup

	Mild MS (n = 51) Subgroup 1	Moderate MS (n = 27) Subgroup 2	Severe MS (n = 30) Subgroup 3	Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA	Mann-Whitney post-hoc comparison		
					1-2	1-3	2-3
Disease Steps	1 (1 - 2)	3 (3 - 4)	5 (5 - 6)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
Disease duration (yrs)	8.50 (4.75 - 16.75)	15.00 ( 10.00 - 18.00)	21.00 (12.50 - 26.50)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.05
MSFC ↑	0.53 (0.30 - 0.75)	- 0.02 (- 0.27 - 0.31)	- 1.60 (- 5.38 - (-0.65))	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
<b>PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING</b>							
T25FW (m/s) ↑	1.33 (1.13 - 1.63)	0.82 (0.65 - 1.05)	0.21 (0.00 - 0.46)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
MSWS-12 ↓	25 (18.75 - 35.50)	48 (42 - 55)	59 (39.50 - 60.00)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	ns
9HPT (s) ↓	22.16 (20.08 - 26.09)	27.04 (22.21 - 32.60)	36.41 (29.19 - 53.14)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
SF36 physical ↑	40.35 (32.05 - 45.55)	28.40 (22.60 - 35.60)	20.60 (15.00 - 27.35)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
<b>COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING</b>							
TMT (s) ↓	44.79 (33.19 - 59.16)	55.76 (42.58 - 70.67)	75.47 (60.40 - 163.28)	< 0.01	< 0.05	< 0.01	< 0.01
PVSAT ↑	54 (49 - 59)	53 (45 - 57)	35 (29 - 55)	< 0.01	ns	< 0.01	< 0.05
<b>PSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING</b>							
MFIS ↓	31 (16.50 - 43.50)	46 (38 - 59)	40 (20.50 - 52.25)	< 0.01	< 0.01	ns	< 0.05
HADS ↓	8 (5 - 14)	14 (7 - 20)	11 (5 - 18.25)	0.04	< 0.05	ns	ns
FAI ↑	30 (24 - 35)	26 (21 - 30)	17 (12 - 24)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
SF36 mental ↑	52.40 (44.05 - 58.80)	49.40 (38.30 - 59.60)	55 (48 - 60)	ns	/	/	/

Values are median (IQR). Ns: not significant. Upward arrows indicate better performance with higher scores; downward arrows indicate worse performance with higher scores.

PwMS, Persons with Multiple Sclerosis; MS, Multiple Sclerosis; ANOVA, Analysis of variance.

Outcome measures: MSFC, Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite; T25FW, Timed 25-Foot Walk test; MSWS-12, Multiple Sclerosis Walking Scale; 9HPT, 9-Hole Peg test; SF-36, 36-item short-form health survey; TMT, Trail Making Test; PVSAT, Paced Visual Serial Attention Test; MFIS, Modified Fatigue Impact Scale; HADS, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; FAI, Frenchay Activities Index.

Table 1: Contextual (personal and environmental) factors of PwMS by subgroup

	Mild (n = 51) *	Moderate (n = 27)	Severe (n = 30)	Total (n=108)
<b>PERSONAL FACTORS</b>				
Gender (M/F)	16/34	13/14	12/18	41/66
Age (22-34/35-44/45-54/55-64)	7/15/20/8	1/4/8/12/2	0/5/6/7/12	8/24/34/27/14
Type of MS (RR/SP/PP/unknown)	39 /1/4/6	10/6/9/2	2/11/13/4	51/18/26/12
Education (primary/secondary/higher)	3/25/22	1/17/9	4/19/7	8/61/38
Driving ability (no/uncertain/yes)	7/4/39	5/4/18	18/2/10	30/10/67
Work (not working/half-time/full-time)	31/10/9	22/5/0	28/1/1	81/16/10
Housing type (apartment/house)	8/42	6/21	6/24	20/87
Household size (1 pers/2 pers/more than 2)	5/17/28	3/13/11	10/13/7	18/43/46
Household income (< €1000/€1000-€2500/ €2500-€5000/> €5000/ unknown)	0/20/21/1/8	0/10/10/0/7	1/12/5/0/12	1/42/36/1/27
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS</b>				
Degree of urbanization (Flemish Periphery around Brussels/metropolitan areas/regional urban areas/structure supporting small urban areas/small urban areas at provincial level/rural areas)	0/6/11/3/ 13/17	1/8/4/2/ 3/9	1/2/7/2/ 8/10	2/16/22/7/ 24/36

Values are number of PwMS. \*Missing data of 1 PwMS in mild subgroup.  
PwMS, Persons with Multiple Sclerosis; MS, Multiple Sclerosis.  
RR: relapsing-remitting; SP: secondary progressive; PP: primary progressive.

Table 1: Travel and activity outcome measures of PwMS by subgroup

	Mild MS (n = 51) Subgroup 1	Moderate MS (n = 27) Subgroup 2	Severe MS (n = 30) Subgroup 3	Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA	Mann-Whitney post-hoc comparison		
					1-2	1-3	2-3
<b>TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR</b>							
Number of trips per day	5.0 ± 1.8 (0.9 - 9.7)	3.4 ± 1.3 (1.3 - 7.1)	2.7 ± 1.5 (0.6 - 6.6)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.05
<b>Travel mode (%)</b>							
Car driver	45.7 ± 29.9 (0.0 - 96.6)	41.1 ± 35.4 (0.0 - 100.0)	21.2 ± 31.7 (0.0 - 100.0)	< 0.01	ns	< 0.01	< 0.05
Car passenger	17.0 ± 17.6 (0.0 - 73.5)	24.1 ± 27.1 (0.0 - 100.0)	33.4 ± 35.5 (0.0 - 100.0)	ns	/	/	/
Car unknown *	8.2 ± 13.9 (0.0 - 54.3)	4.7 ± 6.9 (0.0 - 27.3)	3.6 ± 9.0 (0.0 - 33.3)	< 0.05	ns	< 0.01	0.10
Non-motorised	20.7 ± 25.6 (0.0 - 83.3)	14.4 ± 20.1 (0.0 - 66.7)	4.9 ± 12.5 (0.0 - 50.0)	< 0.01	ns	< 0.01	< 0.01
Public transport	3.4 ± 11.8 (0.0 - 80.0)	6.9 ± 18.6 (0.0 - 87.5)	0.6 ± 1.8 (0.0 - 6.3)	ns	/	/	/
Assistive device	0.0 - 0.0 (0.0 - 0.0)	5.6 ± 19.4 (0.0 - 100.0)	26.2 ± 36.8 (0.0 - 95.5)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.05
Adapted transport	0.2 ± 1.7 (0.0 - 11.8)	0.3 ± 1.4 (0.0 - 7.4)	3.9 ± 7.8 (0.0 - 27.8)	< 0.01	ns	< 0.01	< 0.05
Other/unknown	4.9 ± 14.5 (0.0 - 100.0)	2.9 ± 6.3 (0.0 - 30.0)	6.2 ± 17.7 (0.0 - 70.6)	ns	/	/	/
<b>Number of persons (%)</b>							
1 person	46.7 ± 21.6 (0.0 - 91.4)	47.0 ± 25.7 (0.0 - 100.0)	35.5 ± 34.9 (0.0 - 92.0)	ns	/	/	/
2 persons or more	34.2 ± 20.2 (0.0 - 67.6)	37.3 ± 22.5 (0.0 - 81.8)	46.1 ± 33.5 (0.0 - 100.0)	ns	/	/	/
Unknown	19.1 ± 26.5 (0.0 - 100.0)	15.8 ± 14.9 (0.0 - 50.0)	18.5 ± 24.9 (0.0 - 100.0)	ns	/	/	/
<b>Average distance (km)</b>	<b>7.68 ± 4.27 (1.47 - 21.56)</b>	<b>8.24 ± 4.28 (2.02 - 17.75)</b>	<b>7.90 ± 7.26 (0.83 - 33.60)</b>	ns	/	/	/
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>							
Number of activities per day	3.0 ± 1.1 (0.4 - 5.6)	2.0 ± 0.8 (0.7 - 4.4)	1.5 ± 0.9 (0.3 - 3.7)	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.05
<b>Type of activity (%)</b>							
Working	8.5 ± 14.3 (0.0 - 80.0)	3.9 ± 9.8 (0.0 - 40.0)	0.8 ± 4.1 (0.0 - 22.2)	< 0.01	< 0.05	< 0.01	0.07
Education	3.1 ± 7.3 (0.0 - 38.5)	0.5 ± 1.8 (0.0 - 8.3)	0.4 ± 2.1 (0.0 - 11.1)	< 0.05	0.072	< 0.05	ns
Shopping	19.9 ± 14.7 (0.0 - 66.7)	20.7 ± 15.3 (0.0 - 66.7)	21.5 ± 25.3 (0.0 - 100.0)	ns	/	/	ns
Services	7.0 ± 7.9 (0.0 - 27.3)	9.4 ± 13.6 (0.0 - 60.0)	4.7 ± 9.1 (0.0 - 37.5)	ns	/	/	/
Social and leisure	23.7 ± 17.2 (0.0 - 71.4)	31.1 ± 15.5 (0.0 - 61.5)	37.0 ± 23.9 (0.0 - 80.0)	< 0.05	< 0.05	< 0.05	ns
Bring / Get	9.4 ± 13.4 (0.0 - 54.2)	6.3 ± 8.4 (0.0 - 26.7)	2.2 ± 6.0 (0.0 - 22.7)	< 0.01	ns	< 0.01	< 0.05
Rehabilitation	7.1 ± 7.0 (0.0 - 26.3)	13.2 ± 10.6 (0.0 - 33.3)	16.5 ± 14.4 (0.0 - 50.0)	< 0.01	< 0.05	< 0.01	ns
Walking	7.3 ± 13.1 (0.0 - 47.8)	4.6 ± 8.0 (0.0 - 25.0)	7.6 ± 12.0 (0.0 - 37.5)	ns	/	/	/
Other / Unknown	14.2 ± 19.6 (0.0 - 100.0)	10.5 ± 11.6 (0.0 - 41.7)	9.3 ± 12.6 (0.0 - 40.0)	ns	/	/	/
<b>Average duration (min)</b>	<b>92.7 ± 76.7 (16 - 456)</b>	<b>87.1 ± 50.4 (21 - 225)</b>	<b>76.1 ± 34.9 (26 - 149)</b>	ns	/	/	/
<b>Planning of activity (%)</b>							
Planned	69.8 ± 22.9 (0.0 - 100.0)	69.2 ± 22.5 (0.0 - 100.0)	65.3 ± 35.2 (0.0 - 100.0)	ns	/	/	/
Spontaneous	17.0 ± 14.4 (0.0 - 47.4)	18.4 ± 14.9 (0.0 - 68.8)	11.1 ± 24.1 (0.0 - 100.0)	< 0.01	ns	< 0.01	< 0.01
Unknown	13.3 ± 21.8 (0.0 - 100.0)	12.5 ± 18.3 (0.0 - 58.3)	20.9 ± 28.3 (0.0 - 100.0)	ns	/	/	/

Values are mean ± SD (range). Ns: not significant.

\* Car driver or passenger unknown because not reported in travel diary.

PwMS, Persons with Multiple Sclerosis; MS, Multiple Sclerosis; ANOVA, Analysis of variance.

Table 1: Bivariate Spearman correlation analysis between travel behaviour and health condition/functioning and contextual factors of PwMS by subgroup

MS subgroup	Nr of Trips per Day				Nr of Trips Made Alone	Nr of Trips as Car Driver
	Total	Mild	Mod	Sev	Total	Total
<b>FUNCTIONING</b>						
Disease Steps	- 0.52 †	ns	ns	ns	ns	- 0.44 †
Disease duration	- 0.29 †	ns	- 0.41 *	ns	0.24 *	- 0.43 †
MSFC	0.47 †	ns	0.41 *	ns	0.38 †	0.50 †
<b>Physical functioning</b>						
T25FW	0.56 †	ns	ns	ns	0.43 †	- 0.50 †
MSWS-12	- 0.40 †	ns	ns	ns	- 0.30 †	- 0.22 *
9HPT	- 0.41 †	ns	- 0.60 †	ns	- 0.39 †	- 0.41 †
SF36 physical	0.40 †	ns	ns	ns	0.31 †	0.27 †
<b>Cognitive functioning</b>						
TMT	- 0.30 †	ns	ns	ns	- 0.27 †	- 0.39 †
PVSAT	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	- 0.29 †
<b>Psychosocial functioning</b>						
MFIS	ns	ns	ns	ns	- 0.20 *	ns
HADS	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
FAI	0.44 †	0.31 *	ns	ns	0.36 †	0.42 †
SF36 mental	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<b>CONTEXTUAL ‡</b>						
<b>Personal factors</b>						
Age	- 0.36 †	ns	ns	ns	- 0.32 †	- 0.30 †
Education	0.21 *	0.39 †	ns	ns	0.31 †	ns
Driving ability	0.25 *	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.65 †
Work situation	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.20 *	0.21 *
Household size	0.33 *	0.38 †	ns	ns	ns	0.33 †
Household income	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Housing type	0.19 *	0.33 *	ns	ns	ns	ns
<b>Environmental factors</b>						
Degree of urbanization	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.22 *
Distance to bus stop	ns	ns	- 0.54 †	ns	ns	ns
Distance to family	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Distance to friends	ns	- 0.35 *	ns	ns	ns	ns
Distance to rehab	ns	ns	ns	- 0.48 †	ns	ns
Distance to shops	ns	- 0.29 *	ns	ns	ns	ns

Ns: not significant. Significant correlation coefficient: \*  $p < 0.05$ , †  $p < 0.01$

‡ Categories of these variables are described in table 2 and in 'Study design and outcome measures'.

PwMS, Persons with Multiple Sclerosis; MS, Multiple Sclerosis.

Outcome measures: MSFC, Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite; T25FW, Timed 25-Foot Walk test; MSWS-12, Multiple Sclerosis Walking Scale; 9HPT, 9-Hole Peg test; SF-36, 36-item short-form health survey; TMT, Trail Making Test; PVSAT, Paced Visual Serial Attention Test; MFIS, Modified Fatigue Impact Scale; HADS, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; FAI, Frenchay Activities Index.



Table 1: Multiple linear regression: ~~health condition~~ functioning and contextual factors related to activity-related travel behaviour

	DAILY NUMBER OF TRIPS			NUMBER OF TRIPS MADE ALONE			NUMBER OF TRIPS AS CAR DRIVER		
	$\beta$	SE	t	$\beta$	SE	t	$\beta$	SE	t
<b>FUNCTIONING</b>									
Disease duration							-0.05	0.02	-3.46 †
T25FW	1.34	0.38	3.55 †	0.68	0.30	2.25 *			
FAI	0.06	0.02	2.47 *	0.04	0.02	2.11 *			
<b>CONTEXTUAL FACTORS</b>									
Driving ability							0.74	0.16	4.51 †
Household size	0.46	0.23	2.04 *				0.41	0.19	2.17 *
<b>OVERALL MODEL</b>									
R <sup>2</sup>	0.394			0.197			0.376		
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.374			0.180			0.356		
$\beta$ constant	0.22			0.15			0.47		
Standard error	0.65			0.41			0.54		
p	< 0.001			< 0.001			< 0.001		

R<sup>2</sup>: predictive value;  $\beta$ : estimate; SE: standard error; t: t-value.

Significant regression coefficient: \* p < 0.05, † p < 0.01.

Outcome measures: T25FW, Timed 25-Foot Walk test; FAI, Frenchay Activities Index.