Multimedia Appendix 2. Characteristics of participants with multiple sclerosis (MS) and those of participants in other Canadian MS studies

Characteristic	Present study	Fiest[91]	Metz[92]	Metz[92]
Data collection years	2014-2016	2010-2013	2011-2013	2002-2006
Study name	-	Epidemiology and impact of comorbidity in MS	The Alberta MS Initiative (TAMSI)	Calgary Research Cohort
Region		Multi-site, Canada	Alberta, Canada	Calgary, Canada
N	255	949	704	1717
Mean age (SD)	51.1 (12.9)	48.6 (11.4)	47.6 (11.5)	45.9 (11.1)
Sex, n (%)				
Male	47 (18.4)	235 (24.8)	159 (22.6)	393 (22.9)
Female	208 (81.6)	714 (75.2)	545 (77.4)	1324 (77.1)
Ethnicity, n (%)				
Caucasian	217 (85.4)	810 (85.4)	685 (95.6)	1613 (95.1)
Other	37 (14.5)	139 (14.6)	19 (4.4)	104 (4.9)
Education, n (%)				
<High school	10 (3.9)		32 (4.6)	154 (9.1)
High School/ GED	78 (30.6)	258 (30.1)[a]	170 (24.4)	479 (28.3)
College/Technical/Trade	101 (39.6)	574 (67.1)[b]	268 (38.5)	675 (39.8)
Bachelor's degree	56 (22.0)		163 (23.4)	288 (17.0)
>Bachelor's degree	10 (4.0)		64 (9.2)	99 (5.8)
Marital Status, n (%)				

Single/never married	30 (11.8)		88 (12.6)	182 (10.6)
Married/common law	182 (71.4)		519 (74.0)	1267 (74.1)
Divorced/separated/widowed	43 (16.9)		94 (13.4)	260 (15.2)
Ever smoked, n (%)	152 (59.6)		555 (79.3)	1082 (69.0)
MS Characteristics				
Age at MS onset, years, mean (SD)	31.4 (11.4)	33.2 (10.0)	33.3 (10.2)	33.0 (10.0)
Age at MS diagnosis, years, mean (SD)	36.2 (11.1)	-		
Current course, n (%)				
Relapsing remitting	184 (72.2)	687 (72.4)	444 (62.7)	
Secondary progressive	48 (18.8)	193 (20.3)	116 (16.4)	
Primary progressive	23 (9.0)	60 (6.3)	67 (9.5)	
Possible/uncertain	0 (0)	0 (0)	81 (11.4)	
EDSS median (p25-p75)	4 (3-6)	2.5 (1.5-5.0)		

a-   a- high school or less; b- any post-secondary education, remaining participants reported education as other;

EDSS = Expanded Disability Status Scale