Webinar Series













Exercise & Physical Activity

April 9, 2019

Presented by:











National Multiple Sclerosis Society



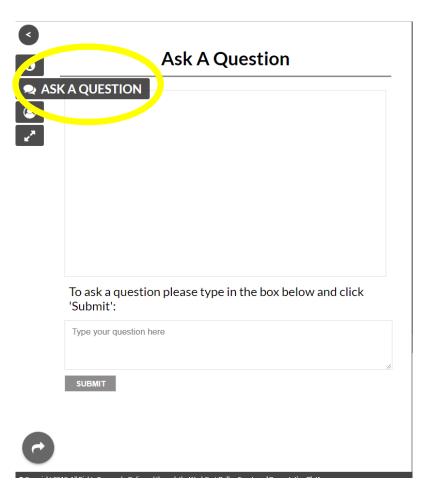




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- Type in your question in the "Ask A Question" Box
- Expand the "Ask a Question" box in your control panel on the left side of your screen



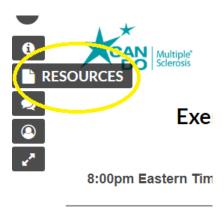




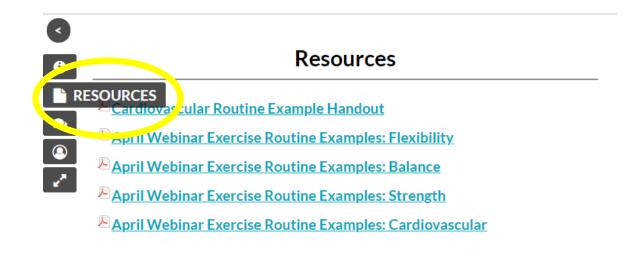


How to Access Resources During the Webinar:

 Click the "Resources" Icon on the left.



 Then click on any of the resources you're interested in downloading.







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Learning Objectives

- Determine the benefits of exercise & physical activity
- Learn how MS symptoms can be managed through exercise
- Learn how to manage your barriers to exercise
- Understand how to create a well-balanced exercise program
- Learn to incorporate exercise into your daily life
- Develop a personalized strategy for incorporating exercise & physical activity into your daily life





Develop a Personalized Strategy

 "Exercise & Physical Activity" Webinar Handout – attached as a resource for tonight's webinar

- Please click on the Resources Icon on the left of your screen to access the handout
- The handout will also be sent in the webinar follow up email about 24 hours after the live webinar broadcast
- We hope that you print out this handout, fill it out, and reflect on how you can incorporate exercise into your life



Exercis

8:00pm Eastern Time / 7:



Exercise and Physical Activity

- Important part of a healthy, well balanced lifestyle
 - Physical Benefits
 - Benefits to Mood
 - Brain Health Benefits
- Benefits well studied in general population
- People with MS enjoy the same benefits







Exercise – It Really Is The Best Medicine!

- Improves strength
- Improves posture
- Lessens fatigue
- Improves cardiovascular health
- Improves mood, self-confidence and overall wellness
- Improves sleep and appetite
- Improves fitness levels

- Improves cognitive functioning
- Improves 'Quality of Life'
- Prevents over-use injuries
- Creates opportunities for new social outlets
- Decreases chances of secondary illness
- Effective in weight loss/weight maintenance

... The List Goes On!!

Exercise and MS

- Safe and effective for people with MS (PwMS)
- Benefits of exercises for PwMS are well studied
- Resources available
 - Healthcare Team
 - National MS Society
 - Can Do MS
 - Local YMCA/Community Centers



Why Exercise?

Exercise has been proven to benefit all of the following in PwMS:

- Muscular Strength
- Aerobic Capacity
- Walking Performance
- Fatigue
- Depression
- Quality of Life
- Brain Health



Muscular Strength

**Improved Muscle Force Production

Additional Benefits include:

- Improved walking speed and endurance
- Improved independence
- Improved gait pattern
- Improved immune system function
- Improved breathing
- Reduced fatigue
- Decreased disability



Aerobic Capacity

- Low to moderate intensity cardiovascular exercise is well tolerated
- Positive effects on both physiology and psychology
 - Mood stability
 - Antidepressant effects
 - Anti-fatigue effects
 - Improved capacity of cardiovascular system



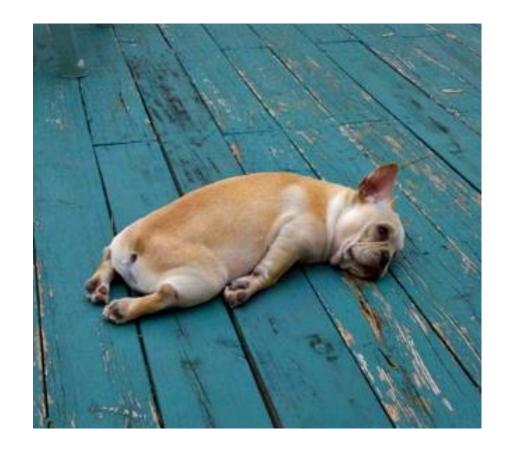
Walking Performance

- Walking requires:
 - Lower extremity strength
 - Cardiovascular health
 - Balance
 - Coordination
- Improved fitness level and strength improve:
 - Normalization of gait pattern
 - Improved gait efficiency



Fatigue

- Keeping fit and improving strength can:
 - Reduce the severity of fatigue
 - Improve general sense of wellness



Depression

- In the general population, studies have shown that those who exercise regularly benefit in the following ways:
 - Improved mood, self-esteem, sleep
 - Reduced rates of depression and stress
- Current research suggests:
 - Exercise (aerobic and maybe resistive) may decrease depressive symptoms
 - Regular physical activity may help people feel less depressed over time

Quality of Life

- Quality of life is improved with regular exercise
 - Improved mood
 - Improved physical function
 - Improved independence
 - Decreased falls



A Body in Motion...

- A well designed exercise program can
 - Optimize potential of muscle, bone and respiration
 - Minimize secondary complications
 - Promote independence
 - Attenuate disability
- Exciting research suggests that exercise may improve brain health in multiple ways!!



Tends to Stay in Motion

- More fit MS patients have:
 - Less damage and deterioration in the brain as a result of MS
 - Greater volume of vital gray matter
- Individuals who exercise regularly:
 - Generally have better foundation for recovery from an MS attack/exacerbation
- Exercise may help to:
 - Preserve neuronal integrity
 - Reduce long-term disability

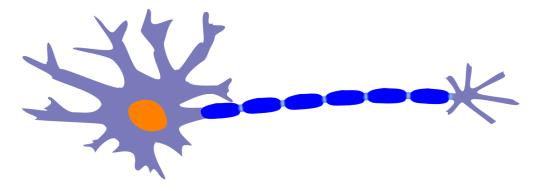


Neuroplasticity

 Neuroplasticity is the ability of the neurons to change their function, chemical profile or structure

The brain and nerve connections within the brain are constantly

changing



Exercise may facilitate these processes, encouraging positive changes in the nervous system

Neuroplasticity

- Brain is NOT fixed but rather flexible and adaptable
- Areas of representation can become larger or smaller
- Re-organization is based on learning, experience, memory, disuse, damage from disease, and practice
- Re-organization is influenced by what we DO and what we DON'T DO

Exercise and YOU!

- Exercise programs must be appropriate to ability level of the individual
- Exercise routines should be adjusted as needed
- A physical therapist experienced with the unique and varied symptoms of MS can be helpful in designing, supervising and revising a well-balanced exercise program.
- Any person who is initiating a new exercise program should consult with their physician for clearance.

Barrier to Exercise:

MOTIVATION

- Realistic expectations
- Goal Setting
 - Setting big goals -> outlining small steps to achieve big goals
- Identifying barriers and creating solutions

Polling Question

What is your main motivating reason to exercise?

- A) General Fitness
- **B) Weight Maintenance**
- **C) Social Reasons**
- D) Stress Relief

Barriers to Exercise: MS Symptoms

- Fatigue
- Heat sensitivity
- Decreased mobility, balance & coordination, sensation
- Impaired vision
- Bladder and Bowel issues



Polling Question

What MS symptom most limits your ability to exercise?

- A) Fatigue
- **B) Heat/Cold Sensitivity**
- **C) Mobility Restrictions**
- D) Impaired Vision
- E) Bladder and Bowel Issues

Barriers to Exercise:

Wait, there's more?... than just MS

- Financial constraints
- Time constraints
- Limited space
- Appropriate opportunities
- Equipment
- Finding something that you enjoy



Barrier Breakers: Fatigue

- Identifying the best time of day
- "Just the right amount"
- Breaking up daily exercise into smaller sessions
- 10 minute rule



Barrier Breakers: Heat Sensitivity

- Pre-cooling
- Cooling Devices
- Determining the right environment
- Ice water
- Fans
- Post-cooling





Barrier Breakers: Decreased Mobility, Balance & Coordination, Sensation

- Safety first
- Identifying the right activity based on limitations
- Identifying the right supports and adaptive equipment to use to make the activity safe and doable
- Use mobility devices
- Think outside of the box



Barrier Breakers: Vision Impairment

- Safety first
- Choosing a location to exercise that has good lighting, contrast, and limited visual stimulus
- Avoid busy and/or risky environments
- If exercising outdoors, do so in full daylight
- Wear glasses or contacts



Barrier Breakers: Bladder & Bowel Issues

- Evaluate your needs and identify your pattern
 - Know your body/timing
- Do you need to exercise close to a restroom?
- Avoid bladder irritants prior to exercise
- Avoid activities that cause incontinence
- Replenish fluids after exercising and plan accordingly
- Speak with your healthcare team

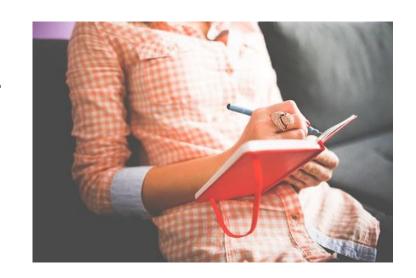
Barrier Breakers: Financial Constraints

- Exercise does not have to be expensive
- Start simple: walking, light "weights", use things you already have
- NMSS
- YMCA



Barrier Breakers: Time Constraints

- You can make time for things you prioritize in your life
- Mentally or literally keep a time journal of your day and find 10-30 min slots to fit in exercise
- Plan for the unexpected
- Stick to your plan
- Communicate with your family, friends, coworkers—asking for help and accountability



Barrier Breakers: Limited Space

- Create dual purpose places for exercise in your home or work
- Get creative





Barrier Breakers: Appropriate Opportunities

- NMSS
- Senior centers
- Community centers
- What groups are you already a part of that you could incorporate exercise into?



Barrier Breakers: Equipment

- Start a program first, once established then invest in equipment
- Use items in your house
- Rent from the library
- Try free trials





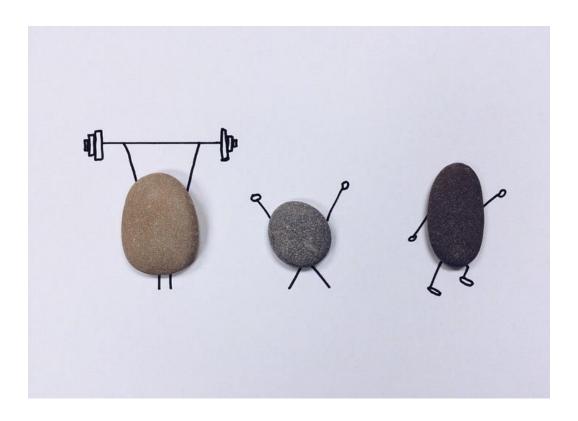
Barrier Breakers: Finding Something That You Enjoy

- It's really hard to make a habit doing something you hate
- Reward yourself



Designing a Well Balanced Exercise Program

Flexibility
Balance
Strength
Cardiovascular Activity



FITT Principal

Frequency

How often should you exercise?

Intensity

How hard should you exercise?

Time/Duration

How long should you exercise?

Type/Specificity

What type of exercise is most appropriate?

Flexibility

- Elongating muscles
- Component of spasticity management
- Frequency: Daily
- **Intensity**: 2-3 repetitions
- Time/Duration: Hold 30-60 seconds
- Type/Mode
 - Individually, with partner, or with equipment
 - Example: Yoga



Flexibility: Learn Your Options









Balance

- Balance = Integration of motor and sensory systems
- Motor Systems:
 - Musculoskeletal (strength, flexibility)
 - Neuromuscular (coordination, timing)
- Sensory Systems:
 - Eyes
 - Inner Ear (vestibular organs)
 - Touch/pressure sensation from feet and joints (Somatosensation)

Balance

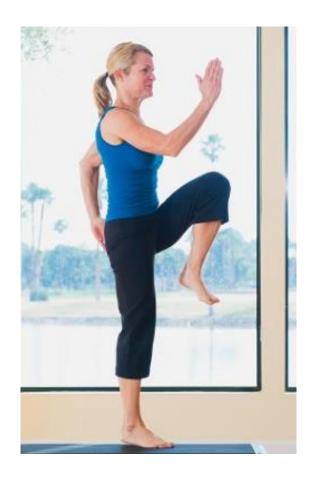
- Frequency, Intensity, Duration, and Type of exercise are highly individualized
- Safety during performance
- Challenge components of motor and sensory systems
- Examples of challenge:
 - varied arm motions
 - head turns
 - eyes closed
 - unsupportive surface



Balance: Learn Your Options







Cardiovascular Activity

- **Frequency:** 3-4 sessions/week (minimum)
- Intensity: Rating of Perceived Exertion Scale- score 3-5
- **Duration:** 20-30 minutes/session OR 2, 10-15 minute sessions
- **Type/Mode:** Walking, Biking, Arm Bike, Boxing, Dancing, Aquatherapy, Aerobics Class



Rating of Perceived Exertion

```
Very, Very Light
  Light
3
    Moderate
    Somewhat Hard
5
    Hard
6
   Very Hard
8
   Very, Very Hard
    Maximal
```

Cardiovascular Activity: Learn Your Options







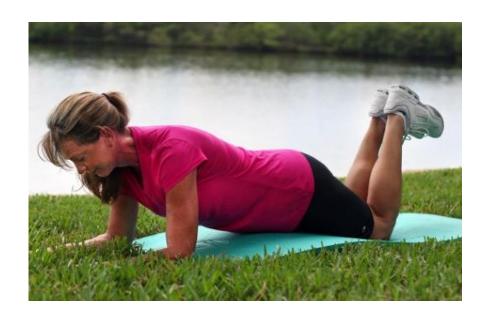
Strength

- **Frequency:** 2-3 Sessions/Week
- Intensity: 1-3 sets, 8-15 repetitions
 - *Progress repetitions, then weight
- **<u>Duration:</u>** 20-30 min session or multiple smaller sessions
- Type/Mode:
 - Emphasis on larger muscles and functional movements
 - Free weights, resistance bands, body resistance, resistance machines

Strength: Learn Your Options







Polling Question

What is the biggest challenge you face that prevents you from being able to exercise regularly?

- A) Time management
- **B) Finances**
- C) Motivation
- D) MS Symptoms
- E) Lack of opportunity

Using the 5 P's to Incorporate Exercise Into Your Daily Life

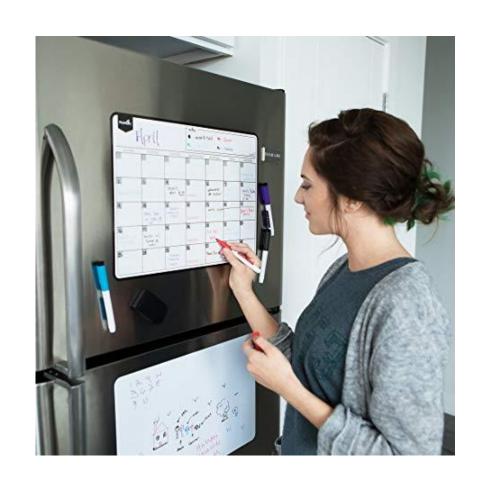
5 P's:

- Plan
- Prioritize
- Prepare
- Pace
- Position



Plan

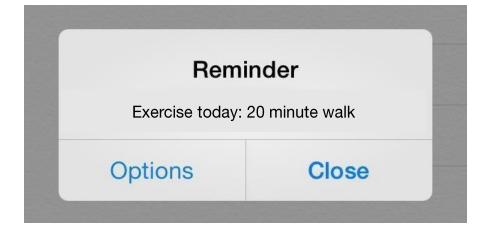
- Determine the where, when, and how
- Account for good days and bad days and have a plan
- Create accountability
 - Track it
 - From others



Prioritize

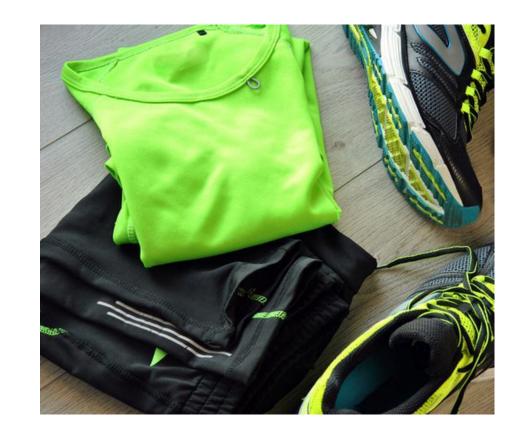
- Create and protect the space in your life to exercise
- Put it on your calendar
- Set alarms
- Communicate with those around you: spouse, children, friends, coworkers
- Realize you may have to make adjustments other places in your life to account for the time, energy, and financial expenditures





Prepare

- Set out or pack clothes in advance
- Prep environment
- Plan for the unexpected and adapt
- Mentally prepare by reminding yourself of your big goal



Pace

- Every day might be different
- Use subjective measures rather than objective
- Use the "Rate of Perceived Exertion"
- Be flexible

RATING OF PERCEIVED EXERTION

0 — Nothing

■ Very, Very Light

2 — Light

3 — Moderate

4 — Somewhat Hard

Hard

6

7 — Very Hard

8

9 — Very, Very Hard

10 — Maximal

Position

- Can you sit to perform the exercise?
 - Example: weights, arm ergometer, recumbent bike, balance ball
- Can you add movement to a part of your daily routine you normally are sedentary for?
 - Example: squats while brushing your teeth or microwaving lunch, walking meetings at work or phone calls



Key Take-Aways

- You CAN initiate a exercise routine
- Don't feel overwhelmed
 - Small changes can make a BIG impact
 - Start with one achievable goal
 - Every day is a new opportunity
- Identify barriers and make a plan to overcome them
- Be kind to yourself

& **4**







Programs



CAN DO® (Four Day)

TAKE CHARGE® (Two Day)

JUMPSTART® (One Day)



Webinar Series (Monthly)

Can Do On Demand

Ask the Can Do Team (Q&A)

Library Articles

National MS Society Resources



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Cognitive Challenges

May 14, 2019

Presented by:







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