



Impact of Mood Changes in MS

Featuring: Dr. Anthony Feinstein & Dr. Fred Foley

Dr. Fred Foley

Another very important aspect of severe depressions in persons with MS is that it makes them feel in a deep state of pain. Depression is a state of pain, of emotional pain, and it makes them feel their physical symptoms of MS much more acutely.

Dr. Anthony Feinstein

Depression does not just affect the individual. It becomes a family problem. Those kinds of difficulties will also be experienced in the workforce as well because this is the person who has to interact with—with colleagues and peers at work and if your behavior has changed in the way that I've described, it could make for a very difficult interaction with someone at work.

Because multiple sclerosis is a difficult disease and it's tough to treat, um, individuals who live with someone with multiple sclerosis can suffer as well. It can be the burden of care. It could be hard to look after someone day in and day out with a disabling disease. It becomes even harder if that patient has developed a depression or behavioral change or personality change or a combination of all of those, and if the person has cognitive difficulties as well. What I do hear from spouses and partners is that they will tell me that the person that you see in front of you is not the same person that I married and they're bemused by that. They don't know where the change has come from. To them, multiple sclerosis is a—is a disease of walking or of balance or of vision or—but now they've got someone whose character or whose personality has changed and they struggle to deal with that.

Dr. Fred Foley

It's very important for persons with MS to get treated for changes in mood, severe changes in mood, because severe changes in mood, such as a major depression, will affect their functions.