

Major depressive disorder with clinically relevant insomnia symptoms: Healthcare professional assessment of patient impact and clinical management

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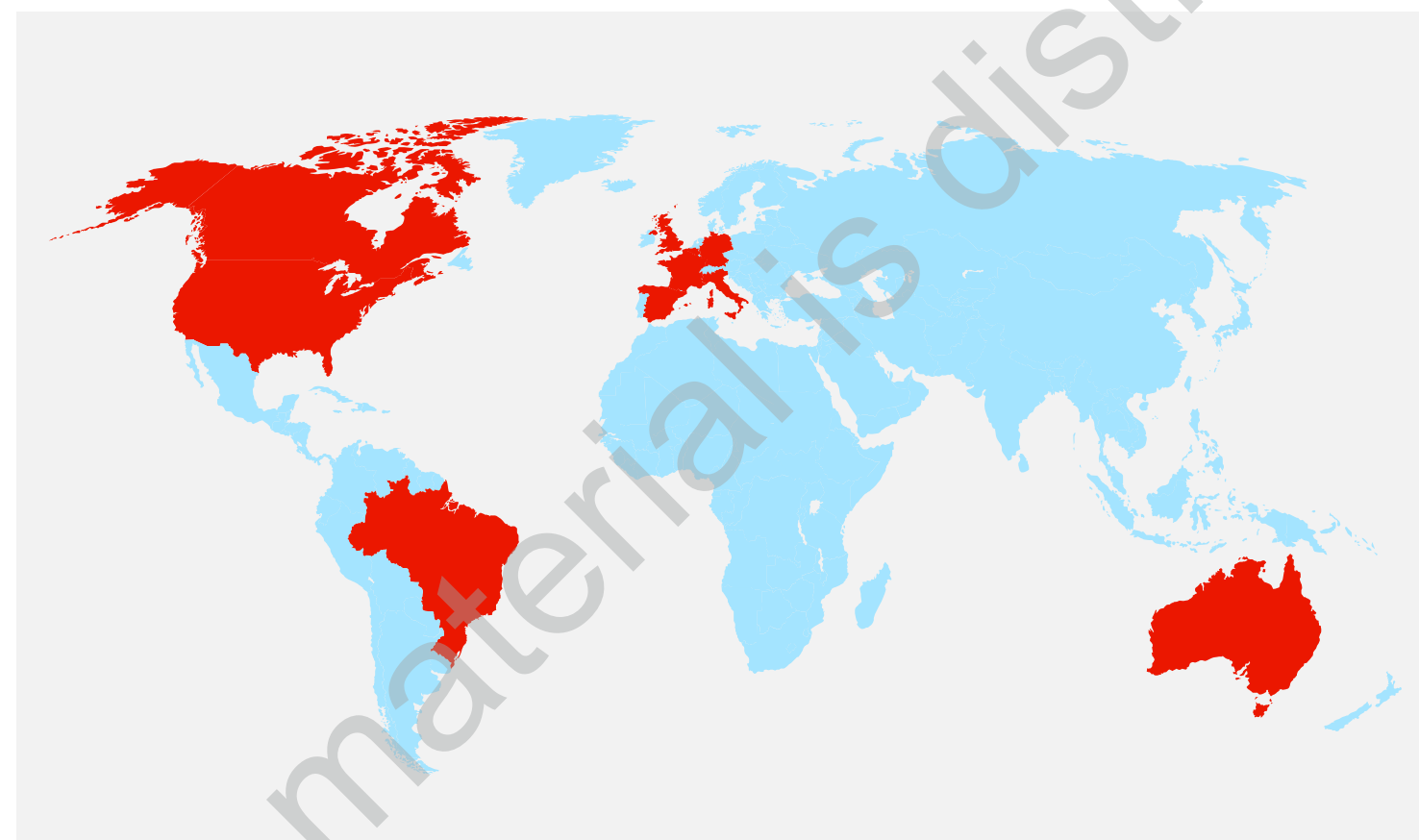
Background

- Major depressive disorder (MDD) is among the most common psychiatric disorders and is a leading cause of disease burden globally and in the United States, with the prevalence continuing to increase each year.¹
- MDD is associated with substantial economic burden and lower health-related quality of life (HRQoL).²
- Insomnia, while a distinct condition, frequently occurs as a comorbidity of depression and is often the most consistent symptom associated with MDD.^{3,4}
- MDD with insomnia is highly prevalent and is associated with poorer outcomes and lower HRQoL compared with MDD without insomnia.^{2,5,6}
- An unmet need exists in clinical practice for better identification and management of MDD with insomnia through evidence-based treatments.^{2,6}
- Research has attempted to understand the relationship between the two conditions and how it affects patients^{2,4,5}; however, a focus on investigating the perspectives of healthcare professionals (HCPs) involved in the treatment of patients with MDD with insomnia might provide a unique, clinical perspective that could enrich the current state of psychiatric knowledge.
- We have conducted a global survey to further investigate perceptions of the impacts of MDD with clinically relevant insomnia symptoms (MDDIS; insomnia severe enough to warrant clinical attention) on patients as well as to assess health economics and satisfaction with preferred treatment strategies and their treatment patterns.
- In this analysis, data from a US/Canada subgroup are presented.

Methods

- The online survey was distributed between October 2023 and January 2024 to primary care physicians, psychiatrists, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners across the US, Canada, Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, and Belgium), Brazil, and Australia (Figure 1).
- Respondents had to:
 - Have primary responsibility for managing ≥ 4 adults with MDDIS (including in the previous 3 months)
 - Have been practicing for 2–35 years
 - Have been spending $\geq 50\%$ of time in clinical settings
 - Not be managing treatment-resistant patients only (100%)
- The survey took ~40 minutes to complete and comprised four patient record forms (PRFs) from patients who:
 - Had been diagnosed with MDDIS
 - Were not enrolled in clinical trials
 - Were not treatment resistant
 - Could now be deceased

Figure 1: Survey locations



- The charting criteria for the PRFs for physicians specified that they had to have at least 1 year of clinical history on each patient and be primarily responsible for managing each patient.
- The survey consisted mainly of numeric questions.
- Data were aggregated in Microsoft Excel, and statistical testing was run via tables in Microsoft Excel using QPSMR software and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) as appropriate.
- The numeric data obtained were statistically tested first for distribution (normal, binomial, etc.).

Results

Physician caseload

- The US/Canada sample comprised 628 HCPs (330 primary care physicians, 209 psychiatrists, 52 PAs, and 37 NPs) who submitted 2512 PRFs from their patients with MDDIS.
- Almost one-third of all patients with MDD managed in the US and Canada had MDDIS (Table 1).
 - Of those, approximately half initiated treatment for both MDD and insomnia (Table 1).
- An average proportion of patients with MDDIS (30–36%) were considered treatment resistant (failed on 1–2 treatment options).

Table 1: Physician caseload

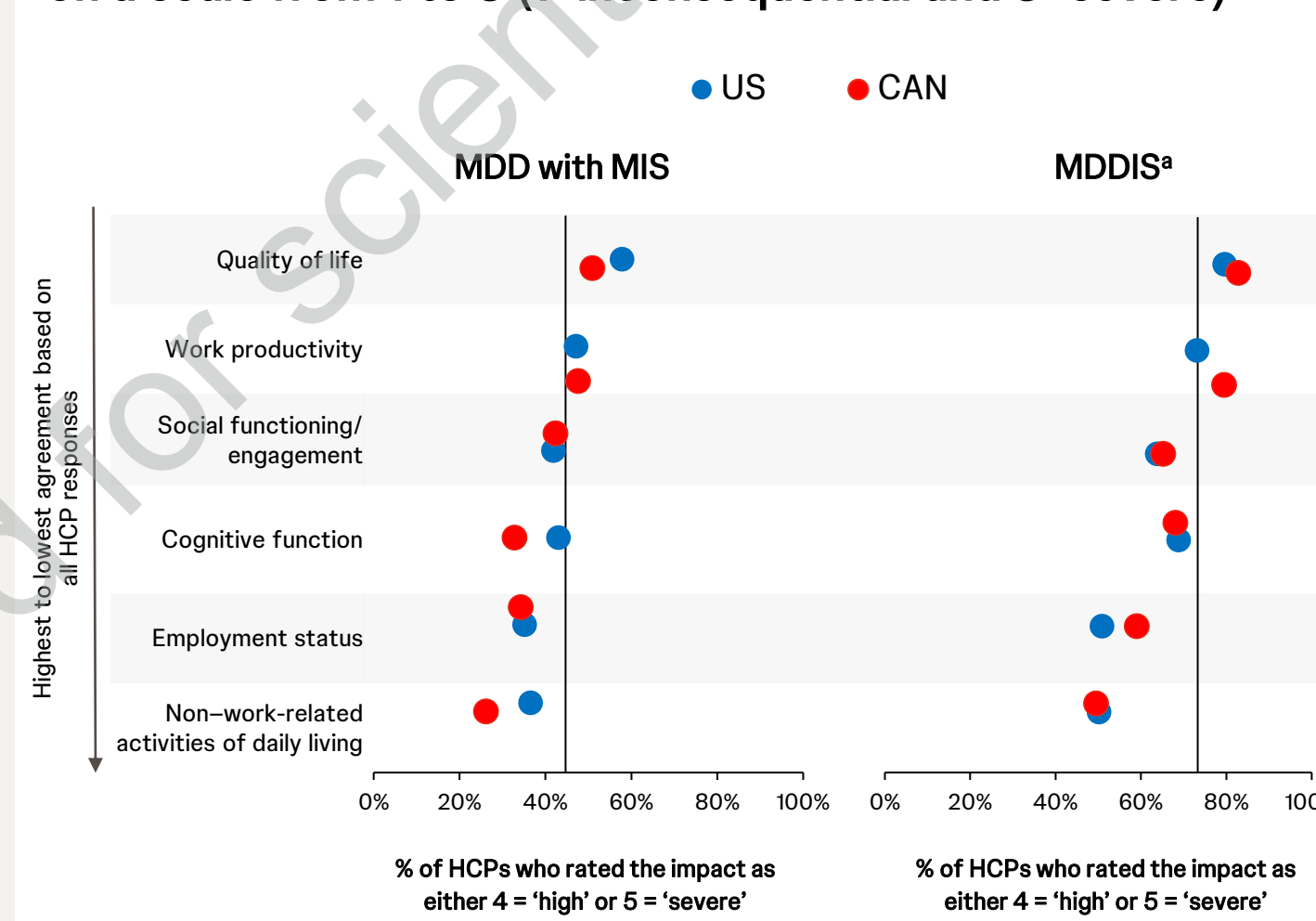
	US	CAN
Of total patients managed in average 3 months (for any condition)		
Adult patients with MDD (base: Total patients managed), %	29 (PCP 21 vs Psych 44)	19 (PCP 16 vs Psych 43)
Of total patients with MDD managed in average 3 months – other conditions experienced (patients could have had more than one condition) – percentage of patients with MDD		
MDDIS, %	30 (PCP 27 vs Psych 31*)	34 (PCP 31 vs Psych 40*)
Sleep disturbances, %	53	57
Insomnia symptoms (of any severity), %	40	46
Condition(s) for which HCPs initiated treatment (for patients with MDDIS)		
MDD only, %	27	29
IS only, %	15	14
Both MDD and IS, %	56	55
None of these	2	2
Average proportion of patients with MDDIS considered treatment resistant* by HCPs, %		
	36	30

*Significant difference (vs other specialty); *Defined for the purposes of the survey as having failed 1–2 treatment options. CAN, Canada; HCP, healthcare professional; MDD, major depressive disorder; MDDIS, major depressive disorder with clinically relevant insomnia symptoms; NP, nurse practitioner; PA, physician assistant; PCP, primary care physician; Psych, psychiatrist; US, United States.

Impacts of MDDIS on patients

- Based on their experiences managing patients with MDD with any level of insomnia (i.e., mild insomnia symptoms or MDDIS), HCPs reported that the quality of life (QoL) and productivity of patients with MDDIS are significantly worse than in those with MDD and mild insomnia (Figure 2).

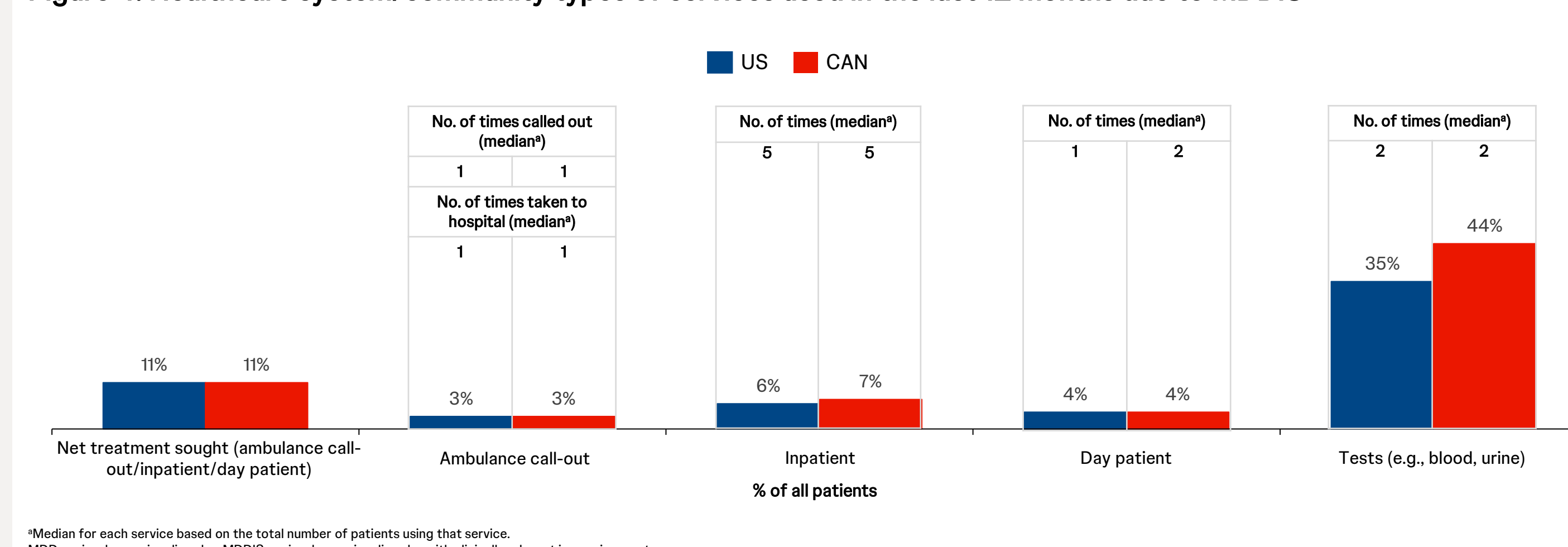
Figure 2: Impact of MDD with MIS or MDDIS on patients' lives: life factors rated as either 4='high' or 5='severe' on a scale from 1 to 5 (1=inconsequential and 5=severe)



Impact significantly higher vs MDD with MIS for all markets. CAN, Canada; HCP, healthcare professional; MDD, major depressive disorder; MDDIS, major depressive disorder with clinically relevant insomnia symptoms; MIS, mild insomnia symptoms; US, United States.

- The analysis of PRFs revealed that 32–34% of patients with MDDIS were currently unemployed.
- Between 13% and 21% of respondents indicated that their patients' productivity was completely impacted (score of 8–10 on a 10-point scale from 'no effect' to 'completely impacted') by MDDIS (Figure 3).
- Patients with MDDIS took an average of 18 days off work per year in the US and 66 in Canada.

Figure 3: Impacts of MDDIS on patients' productivity while working – percentage of all patients, HCP rating per patient on a 10-point scale (0–2 = no effect and 8–10 = completely impacted)



*Median for each service based on the total number of patients using that service. MDD, major depressive disorder; MDDIS, major depressive disorder with clinically relevant insomnia symptoms.

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Key takeaways



MDDIS is a prevalent condition with impacts ranging from impaired QoL and productivity to increased healthcare costs

US and Canadian HCPs are often unsatisfied with treatment options for MDDIS, warranting further investigation into appropriate interventions

Conclusions



The insights provided by the US/Canada sample were generally consistent with the European and overall sample.



Among the patients managed by the HCPs in the US and Canada, almost one-third of all patients with MDD had MDDIS.



HCPs reported that MDDIS often impacts patient productivity, causes patients to take days off work, and often requires healthcare interventions that incur healthcare costs.



The majority of HCPs were only moderately satisfied with their preferred strategy for patients with MDDIS, suggesting room for improvement.



Approximately one in three patients with MDDIS had failed 1–2 treatments and were considered treatment resistant, suggesting that current options are not successful in treating patients.



MDDIS impacts patients' QoL and productivity, and it incurs costs on US and Canadian healthcare systems, necessitating further research into MDD, insomnia, the relationship between these, and novel treatments/strategies.

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