

**Supplementary table 1.** Sensitivity analysis performed after exclusion of the 21 patients who converted to secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS) since > 5 years. CI, confidence interval; EDSS, expanded disability status scale; OR, odds ratio; n.a., not applicable.

Characteristic	At risk n	Events n (%)	Crude OR (95% CI)	P value	Adjusted OR (95% CI) <sup>1</sup>	P value
Age, years	194	n.a.	1.02 (0.98 - 1.06)	0.25	1.00 (0.97 - 1.05)	0.75
Sex						
Men	63	41 (65)	1		1	
Women	131	82 (63)	0.90 (0.48 - 1.68)	0.74	0.85 (0.43 - 1.66)	0.63
Education						
Primary or secondary	88	47 (53)	1		1	
University Degree or higher	39	25 (64)	1.67 (0.84 - 3.32)	0.15	1.79 (0.90 - 3.60)	0.10
Geographic Area						
Germany (2 centres)	67	51 (76)	1		1	
North (12 centres)	66	43 (65)	0.59 (0.27 - 1.25)	0.17	0.67 (0.28 - 1.57)	0.36
Centre (8 centres)	37	18 (49)	<b>0.30 (0.13 - 0.70)</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.28 (0.10 - 0.74)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
South (5 centres)	24	11 (46)	<b>0.26 (0.10 - 1.71)</b>	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.23 (0.08 - 0.70)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Time from SPMS diagnosis, years	127	n.a.	<b>2.88 (2.08 - 3.98)</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	1.11 (0.89 - 1.40)	0.35
EDSS	127	n.a.	0.98 (0.79 - 1.22)	0.88	0.82 (0.59 - 1.14)	0.24
Patient reported activity limitations						
Fully autonomous	54	30 (56)	1		1	
Partially dependent	120	77 (64)	1.43 (0.74 - 2.76)	0.28	2.30 (0.97 - 5.48)	0.06
Fully dependent	16	13 (81)	3.47 (0.88 - 13.63)	0.07	<b>8.66 (1.50 - 50.16)</b>	<b>0.02</b>

1. Multivariate model including all explanatory variables. Hosmer and Lemershow goodness-of-fit test: number of groups 10,  $\chi_2$  10.49, p=0.23.