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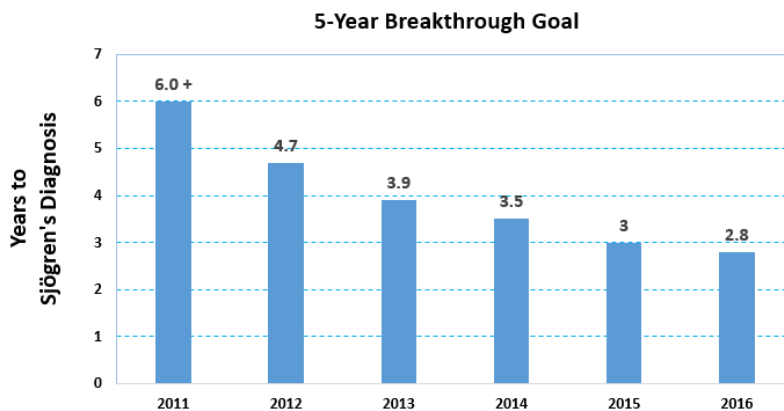
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Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation Achieves 5-Year Breakthrough Goal

The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation (SSF) announces it achieved their *5-Year Breakthrough Goal*: "To shorten the time to diagnose Sjögren's by 50% in five years!"

In 2012, the average time it took for a patient to be accurately diagnosed with Sjögren's, from the time they started seeking a diagnosis, was nearly six years. Today, the Foundation is honored and excited to announce that they have not only reached their Goal but have surpassed it, by reporting the average diagnosis time is currently 2.8 years!



To monitor the Goal's progress, the SSF worked with an outside marketing research company to survey newly diagnosed patients each year and analyze the results to track the time it took for patients to receive a proper Sjögren's diagnosis. The data discovered by them after the first survey in 2012 was used to set the benchmark.

The SSF is the only national non-profit organization focused on increasing research, education and awareness for Sjögren's. Humbled by the support of many, the SSF thanks everyone who helped make this remarkable accomplishment possible!



About Sjögren's:

Sjögren's ("SHOW-grins") is a systemic autoimmune disease that affects the entire body. Along with symptoms of extensive dryness, other serious complications include profound fatigue, chronic pain, major organ involvement, neuropathies and lymphomas. Today, as many as four million Americans are living with this disease.

Diagnosing a patient quickly can be a challenge because a patient will often discuss tooth decay with their dentist, vaginal dryness with their gynecologist and fatigue or joint pain with their primary care doctor. While each symptom alone wouldn't indicate an underlying autoimmune disease, when coupled together they would suggest Sjögren's.

An early diagnosis and proper treatment are important for preventing serious complications and greatly improve a patient's quality of life. Without appropriate treatment, patients may develop serious consequences such as corneal scarring, loss of teeth, internal organ involvement, misdiagnosed neuropathy pain, profound fatigue, or chronic upper respiratory problems. Systemic issues could also be mitigated if caught earlier.

****Arrangements can be made for interviews with local Sjögren's patients, healthcare professionals as well as Steven Taylor, CEO, of the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation.****