# Reliability of a classification system for low back pain

Submission date	Recruitment status	<ul><li>Prospectively registered</li></ul>
03/11/2013	No longer recruiting	∐ Protocol
Registration date 23/01/2014	Overall study status Completed	Statistical analysis plan
		☐ Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 27/01/2014	<b>Condition category</b> Musculoskeletal Diseases	Individual participant data
		<ul><li>Record updated in last year</li></ul>

#### Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

There is proof that the degree of agreement (inter-rater reliability) of Delitto's classification-based system for low back pain is moderate for physical therapists who are familiar with the classification system and the reliability is better in patients with a clear classification than in those with an unclear classification. This study aims to find out the inter-rater reliability of Delittos classification-based treatment for patients with low back pain.

#### Who can participate?

Adult patients with low back pain can participate in this study.

#### What does the study involve?

Patients were examined twice on the same day by two of three therapists with different levels of familiarity with the system. Patients were classified into one of four groups. The physical therapists were blind to the other's classification decision. To quantify the inter-rater reliability, percentages of agreement was calculated.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no benefits from taking part in our study. There were hardly any risks for the patients.

#### Where is the study run from?

Patients were recruited in the Medical Back Neck Centre, an outpatient private practice in the Hague, Netherlands.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for? Patients were recruited from April 2009 to December 2010.

Who is funding the study? Information not provided at time of registration.

Who is the main contact? Dr Adri Apeldoorn a.apeldoorn@vumc.nl

# Contact information

#### Type(s)

Scientific

#### Contact name

Dr Adri Apeldoorn

#### Contact details

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# Additional identifiers

#### Protocol serial number

N/A

# Study information

#### Scientific Title

Inter-rater reliability of a modified version of Delitto's classification-based system for low back pain: an observational study

## Study objectives

To examine:

- 1. the inter-rater reliability of Delittos classification-based treatment system for patients with low back pain.
- 2. the influence of different levels of familiarity with the system.
- 3. the inter-rater reliability of algorithm decisions in patients who clearly fit into a subgroup (clear classifications) and who do not (unclear classifications).

# Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

# Ethics approval(s)

Medical Committee of the VU University Medical Centre in Amsterdam, 02/04/2008, reg. 2008\5

# Study design

Observational single centre

# Primary study design

Observational

# Study type(s)

Diagnostic

#### Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Low back pain

#### **Interventions**

Patients were examined twice on the same day by two of three participating physical therapists with different levels of familiarity with the system. Patients were classified into one of four classification groups. The physical therapists were blind to the other's classification decision. To quantify the inter-rater reliability, percentages of agreement and Cohens kappa were calculated.

#### **Intervention Type**

Other

#### Phase

Not Applicable

#### Primary outcome(s)

The prevalence of each of the four classifications was calculated for the three participating physical therapists.

### Key secondary outcome(s))

Not provided at time of registration

#### Completion date

01/12/2010

# **Eligibility**

#### Key inclusion criteria

- 1. Low back pain as the primary complaint
- 2. With or without associated leg pain
- 3. Age between 18 and 65 years
- 4. Ability to read and write Dutch

#### Participant type(s)

Patient

#### Healthy volunteers allowed

No

#### Age group

Adult

#### Lower age limit

18 years

#### Sex

All

#### Key exclusion criteria

Known or suspected serious low back pathology (e.g., cauda equina compression, fractures, severe radiculopathy, spondylolisthesis [grade 2 or more]), serious other diseases (e.g., metastases, AIDS, cerebrovascular accident), psychopathology, currently pregnant or given birth in the past 3 months and an inability to demonstrate any low back pain symptoms during mechanical examination

**Date of first enrolment** 01/04/2009

Date of final enrolment 01/12/2010

# Locations

**Countries of recruitment**Netherlands

Study participating centre van der Boechorststraat 7 Amsterdam Netherlands 1081BT

# Sponsor information

#### Organisation

EMGO+ Institute for Health and Care Research, VU University Medical Center Amsterdam (Netherlands)

#### ROR

https://ror.org/0258apj61

# Funder(s)

# Funder type

University/education

#### Funder Name

EMGO + Institute for Health and Care Research, VU University Medical Center Amsterdam (Netherlands) no additional funding required

# **Results and Publications**

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

# IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

**Study outputs** 

Output type Details Date created Date added Peer reviewed? Patient-facing?

Participant information sheet Participant information sheet 11/11/2025 No Yes