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Reliability of a classification system for low back pain

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

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?
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

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

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Observational single centre

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
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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