

Additional file 5: Clarity of definitions of Back pain: Cross-sectional studies

Ref (year of pub)	Area of BP (1 point)	Recall period (1 point)						Type (1 point)	Severity described	Consequences reported	Attempted to collect valid data (1 point)	Conclusion
	Location	Now	Past week	Past month	Past year	> 1 year	pain ever	-1 st ever -Episodic -Ongoing -?		-Seek care -Downtime -Disability		Clear definition of BP (x/4)
[38] Aggarwal, (2013)	LB		X	X	X			- - - -?	Yes	- - Downtime - Disability	Questionnaire based on previous guidelines, pretested in pilot study.	3/4
[39] Andersen, (2006)	LB, MB,	X		X			X	- - - -?	No	- Seek care - Downtime -	NR	2/4
[40] Balague', (1994)	LB	?	?	?	?	?	?	- - - -?	No	- - -	NR	1/4
[41] Bejia, (2005)	LB		X	X	X			- -Episodic -Ongoing -	No	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Used pre-validated questionnaire (kappa: 0.7-1.0) Used diagrams	4/4
[42] Cakmak, (2004)	LB			X			X	- - - -?	Yes	- - - Disability	Pilot study of questionnaire: ICC +1 (perfect agreement)	3/4
[43] Dianat, (2017)	LB			X				- - - -?	Yes	- Seek care - Downtime - Disability	Pilot study on questionnaire prior. Test-retest stability kappa: 0.72-0.96) Used diagrams	3/4
[44] Dianat, (2014)	LB			X				- - - -?	No	- - -	Modified pre-validated questionnaire. Pilot study on questionnaire. Test-retest: phi coefficients: 0.72-0.91) Used diagrams	3/4
[45] Diepenmaat, (2006)	LB			X				- - - -?	No	- - -	Used diagram	2/4

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[46] Erne, (2011)	LB			X				- - - -?	No	- - -	Used diagram	2/4
[47] Fernandes, (2015)	LB				X			- - - -?	No	- - -	Adapted a pre-validated questionnaire Used diagram	3/4
[48] Ganesan, (2017)	LB	?	?	?	?	?	?	- - - -?	Yes	- - - - Disability	NR	1/4
[49] Ghandour, (2004)	?		X	X				- -Episodic -Ongoing -	No	- - -	NR	2/4
[50] Gilkey, (2010)	?				X			- - - -?	No	- Seek care - -	NR	1/4
[51] Graup, (2014)	LB						X	- - - -?	No	- - -	Diagrams used	2/4
[52] Gunzburg, (1999),	LB						X	- - - -?	Yes	- Seek care -Downtime -	NR	2/4
[53] Haag, (2016)	Mix				X			- - - -?	Yes	- - -	Stated used a validated questionnaire, diagram used	3/4
[54] Harreby, (1999)	LB	X	X	X	X		X	- -Episodic -Ongoing -	Yes	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Pilot study on questionnaire. Diagram used	4/4

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[55] Hestbaek, (2008)	LB				X			- - - -?	No	- - -	Used a pre-validated questionnaire	3/4
[56] Hulsegge, (2011)	?				X			- - - -?	No	-Seek care - -	NR	1/4
[57] Jones, (2004)	LB			X				- - - -?	No	- - -	Diagrams used	2/4
[58] Kaspiris, (2010)	LB				X			- - - -?	Yes	- - -Disability	Used a pre-validated questionnaire, diagrams used	3/4
[59] Kovacs, (2003)	LB		X				X	- - - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Use a pre-validated questionnaire	3/4
[60] Kristensen, (2001)	LB				X		X	- - - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Use pre-validated questionnaire, piloted the questionnaire, used diagram	3/4
[61] Kristjansdottir, (2002)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	- - - -?	No	- - -	NR	0/4
[62] Leboeuf- Yde, (2002),	Mix	X	X	X				- - - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	NR	3/4
[63] LeResche, (2005)	?			X (3 mth)				- - - -?	Yes	- - -	NR	1/4

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[64] Masiero, (2008)	LB				X			- - - -?	Yes	-Seek care - -	Assessed for comprehensibility in a pilot study	3/4
[65] Mattila, (2008)	LB						X	- - - -?	No	-Seek care - -	NR	2/4
[66] Minghelli, (2014)	LB	X			X		X	- - - -?	No	- - -	Used a pre-validated questionnaire	3/4
[67] Mohseni- Bandpei, (2007),	LB	X		X	X			- - - -?	No	- - -	NR	2/4
[68] Ng, (2014)	LB	X	X				X	- - - -?	Yes	- - -	Diagram used	2/4
[69] Noll, (2016)	?			X (3 mth)				- - - -?	No	- - -	Used a pre-validated questionnaire	2/4
[70] Noll, (2016)	?			X (3 mth)				- - - -?	No	- - -	Used a pre-validated questionnaire	2/4
[71] Onofrio, (2012)	LB			X				- - - -?	No	- - -	Pilot study of questionnaire, diagram used	3/4
[72] Pasanen, (2016)	LB		X		X			- - - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Used pre-validated questionnaire	3/4

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[73] Prista, (2004)	LB			X	X		X	- -Episodic - -	No	-Seek care - -	NR	3/4
[74] Rodrigues- Oviedo, (2012)	?				X			- - - -?	No	- - -	NR	1/4
[75] Scarabottolo, (2017)	LB		X					- - - -?	No	- - -	Used a pre-validated questionnaire, (kappa: 0.57- 1.00)	3/4
[76] Shehab, (2004)	LB	?	?	?	?	?	?	- - -?	Yes	- - -Disability	Questionnaire was pre-tested. Diagrams used.	2/4
[77] Sheir- Neiss (2003)	?			X				- - - -?	Yes	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Adapted a pre-validated questionnaire. Diagrams used.	2/4
[78] Shipp, (2007)	?			X (9 mth)				- - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Pre-validated questionnaire used. Diagram used.	3/4
[79] Silva, (2016)	MB/LB			X (6 mth)				- - - -?	No	-Seek care - -	Diagrams used. Use a pre- validated questionnaire.	3/4
[80] Silva, (2014)	LBP				X			- - - -?	No	- - -	Use a pre-validated questionnaire. Diagrams used.	3/4
[81] Skaggs, (2006)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	- - - -?	Yes	-Seek care - -Disability	Use a pre-validated questionnaire	1/4

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		Now	Past week	Past month	Past year	> 1 year	pain ever					
[82] Turk, (2011)	LB			X (3 mth)				- - - -?	Yes	-Seek care - -Disability	NR	2/4
[83] Van Gent, (2003)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	- - - -?	No	-Seek care - -Disability	NR	0/4
[84] Viry, (1999)	?	X					X	- -Episodic -Ongoing -	No	-Seek care -Downtime -	NR	2/4
[85] Watson, (2003)	LB			X				- - - -?	No	- - -	Piloted questionnaire. Used diagram	3/4
[86] Wedderkopp, (2005)	MB/LB	X	X	X				- - - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -	Pilot study used for questionnaire, diagrams used.	3/4
[87] Wedderkopp, (2001)	MB/LB	x	x	x				- - - -?	No	-Seek care -Downtime -	Pilot study used for questionnaire, diagrams used.	3/4
[88] Wirth, (2015)	MB/LB			X			X	- -Episodic -Ongoing -	yes	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Diagram used	3/4
[89] Wirth, (2013)	MB/LB			X			X	- -Episodic -Ongoing -	Yes	-Seek care -Downtime -Disability	NR	3/4

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[90] Yao, (2012)	LB			X (3 mth)				- - - -?	No	- - -	Pilot study used for questionnaire, test=retest coefficient 0.5-0.8)	3/4

BP: back pain, LB: low back, MB: mid back, NR: not reported,