Special Issue

Evidence-Based Diagnosis and Clinical Management of Low Back Pain

Message from the Guest Editors

Low back pain (LBP) is the leading cause of years lived with disability in most countries, with many individuals experiencing chronic symptoms. It is expected that the disability burden and related costs associated with managing LBP will continue to increase over the next several decades. Research has demonstrated that rehabilitation is a cost-effective management strategy for individuals with LBP that has demonstrated decreased downstream healthcare costs and utilization. This is particularly true when rehabilitation services are initiated early and focus on risk-stratification models that predict patient chronicity, thereby assisting clinicians in clinical decision making that maximizes current resource availability. In this Special Issue, authors are invited to submit original research articles; clinical commentaries; and systematic/scoping reviews on the clinical diagnosis, classification or management of individuals with LBP. Prospective longitudinal cohort studies assessing epidemiology or predictors of LBP chronicity are also welcome. A secondary aim is to highlight health-service research related to the timing and sequencing of the clinical management of LBP.

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