Supplementary files

Do visual pain trajectories reflect the actual course of low back pain? A longitudinal cohort study

Table of Contents

[Supplementary file 1 1](#__RefHeading___Toc733_2015786801)

[Supplementary file 2 4](#__RefHeading___Toc735_2015786801)

[Supplementary file 3 6](#__RefHeading___Toc737_2015786801)

[Supplementary file 4 7](#__RefHeading___Toc739_2015786801)

[Supplementary file 5 8](#__RefHeading___Toc741_2015786801)

[Supplementary file 6 10](#__RefHeading___Toc743_2015786801)

## Supplementary file 1

**Distribution of those with more than 20 weeks of pain and those with fewer pain weeks**

| **Visuel pain trajectory** | **> 20 weeks with pain, n (%)** | **≤ 20 weeks with pain, n (%)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Unrecognized | 10 (13) | 68 (87) |
| Single episode/Recovered | 13 (5) | 227 (95) |
| Episodic | 15 (17) | 72 (83) |
| Fluctuating minor | 70 (59) | 49 (41) |
| Stable minor | 18 (41) | 26 (59) |
| Fluctuating intermediate | 88 (79) | 24 (21) |
| Fluctuating severe | 29 (91) | 3 (9) |
| Persistent severe | 6 (86) | 1 (14) |

**The joint distribution of the variation on top of a trend and of average pain intensity for each participant**



## Supplementary file 2

**Association between baseline characteristics and non-response**

| **Parameter** | **Total sample, N** | **Non-response, n** | **OR1** | **95% CI1** | **p-value** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Back pain (0-10)** | 1,230 | 528 | 1.01 | 0.96, 1.07 | 0.7 |
| **Leg pain (0-10)** | 1,234 | 525 | 1.01 | 0.97, 1.05 | 0.5 |
| **Disability (0-10)** | 1,253 | 538 | 1.00 | 1.00, 1.01 | 0.6 |
| **The STarT Back Screening Tool** | 1,257 | 541 |  |  |  |
| Low risk |  |  | — | — |  |
| Moderate risk |  |  | 1.23 | 0.96, 1.59 | 0.11 |
| High risk |  |  | 1.69 | 1.26, 2.27 | <0.001 |
| **Back beliefs questionnaire (9-45)** | 1,250 | 535 | 0.96 | 0.94, 0.98 | <0.001 |
| **Current episode duration** | 1,256 | 541 |  |  |  |
| Short |  |  | — | — |  |
| Medium |  |  | 0.96 | 0.66, 1.39 | 0.8 |
| Long |  |  | 1.37 | 1.02, 1.84 | 0.039 |
| **Work ability index (0-10)** | 822 | 275 | 0.97 | 0.92, 1.04 | 0.4 |
| *1OR = Odds Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval* |

*Note that the OR are different across scales, OR = Odds Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval*

**The distribution of visual pain trajectories for those with complete and incomplete data**

| **Visuel pain trajectory** | **Non-response, N = 34** | **Responder, N = 719** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Unrecognized | 5 (15%) | 78 (11%) |
| Single episode/Recovered | 9 (26%) | 240 (33%) |
| Episodic | 3 (8.8%) | 87 (12%) |
| Fluctuating minor | 8 (24%) | 119 (17%) |
| Stable minor | 4 (12%) | 44 (6.1%) |
| Fluctuating intermediate | 5 (15%) | 112 (16%) |
| Fluctuating severe | 0 (0%) | 32 (4.5%) |
| Stable severe | 0 (0%) | 7 (1.0%) |

## Supplementary file 3

**The average pain intensity and 10-90th percentile range for each week stratified by the self-reported visual pain trajectory at week 52**



## Supplementary file 4

**The distribution of number of flare-ups (looking back 4 weeks and increases of 3 pain levels) stratified by their self-reported visual pain trajectories at week 52**



## Supplementary file 5

**The distribution of pain intensity and frequency for week 40 - 52 per visual pain trajectory class**



**The joint distribution of the variation on top of an intensity trend for each participant in week 40 - 52**



## Supplementary file 6

**The correlation between pain frequency and pain intensity**



*Correlation coefficients were calculated using Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient*

**The mean number of days with pain and 10-90th percentile range for each week by the self-reported trajectory at week 52**



**The distribution of pain frequency per visual pain trajectory class**



**The joint distribution of the variation on top of a trend (frequency) and of average pain intensity for each participant**

