Chronic low back pain: Economic impact in the patient perspective (LombEco 1)

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Keywords: Chronic low back pain; Economic impact; Work disability; Patient perspective

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Method.– Patients selected for functional restoration for chronic low back pain were prospectively included in the study. They were at work, unemployed or in sick leave because of low back pain. Included patients were systematically assessed. Work disability corresponded to sick leave or unemployment after termination because of low back pain. Loss of income due to low back pain induced work disability was the difference between the income before work disability and the income at the time of inclusion. Factors associated with the loss of income were investigated using multivariate analysis.

Results.– Two hundred and forty-four patients were included: age 43 ± 9 years, ratio F/M 57/157. Occupational categories were as follows: 101 employees, 87 workers, 46 intermediate professions, 10 frameworks. 199 patients were in situation of work disability for 12 ± 9 months in mean. Patients with work disability were more painful, had higher scores using Quebec and Dallas questionnaires, and had lower income than the others (P < 0.05). Loss of income due to low back pain induced work disability was 14% (interquartile 27) in the total disabled population: 6% (9) for compensation by work injury insurance, 22% (36) by health insurance and 42% (35) by unemployment insurance. The income became lower than SMIC in 18% of cases. The loss of income was only associated with the occupational category. The risk of income loss due to low back pain induced disability was 2 folds higher in workers and employees than in other occupational categories: OR 2.16 [95%CI 1.10–4.24], P = 0.025.

Discussion.– Low back pain induced work disability was associated with an income decrease, which varied according to the type compensation system. The probability of income loss due to low back pain induced work disability was higher in employees and workers than in other occupational categories.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2012.07.717

Chronic low back pain: Effect of a program mixing ambulatory physiotherapy in the community and multidisciplinary coordination in a rehabilitation center

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Keywords: Chronic low back pain; Private physiotherapy; Coordination; Multidisciplinary; Mixed program

Methods.– Low back pain induces physical limitations, anxiety and depression and reduction of activity and social participation. The objective of this study is to assess the short-term effects of a program mixing ambulatory physiotherapy, provided in the community by private practice physiotherapists and multidisciplinary coordination.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2012.07.719