

Supplementary file 5: Risk of bias assessment outcome.

Author	1. Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables, e.g. age, sex, occupation?	2. Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population?	3. Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, OR, was a census undertaken?	4. Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal ?	5. Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)?	6. Was an acceptable case definition used in the study?	7. Was the study instrument that measured the parameter of interest (e.g. prevalence of low back pain) shown to have reliability and validity (if necessary) ?	8. Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects?	9. Was the length of the shortest prevalence period for the parameter of interest appropriate?	10. Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the parameter of interest appropriate?	11. Summary item on the overall risk of study bias: - 2x high: High - 1x high + 1x unclear: High - Rest of combinations: low
Badgery-Parker et al., 2019 [15]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Bouck et al., 2019 [39]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Chalmers et al., 2019 [16]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Charlesworth et al., 2016 [35]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Chmiel et al., 2015 [19]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Unclear	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Choi et al., 2011 [40]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Colla et al., 2014 [27]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Colla et al., 2018 [36]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Doukky et al., 2016 [41]	High	High	Low	N.A.	High	Unclear	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Drangsholt et al., 2019 [42]	High	High	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Farghaly et al., 2006 [43]	Low	Unclear	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Feng, et al., 2016 [44]	High	Low	Low	N.A.	High	High	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Flaherty et al., 2018 [38]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Ganguli et al., 2019 [45]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Gidwani et al., 2016 [46]	High	High	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Gill et al., 2017 [47]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Gold et al., 2016 [37]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low

Hajati et al., 2018 [48]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Kool et al., 2020 [18]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Kovacs et al., 2013 [20]	Low	Unclear	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Lalude et al., 2014 [49]	Unclear	Low	Low	N.A.	High	High	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Lehnert et al., 2010 [50]	High	Unclear	Low	N.A.	High	High	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Mafi et al., 2017 [17]	Low	Unclear	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Martin et al., 2012 [51]	High	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Unclear	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
McAlister et al. 2018 [52]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Morden et al., 2014 [53]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Mou et al., 2017 [54]	High	Low	Low	N.A.	High	High	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Pendrith et al., 2017 [55]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Petruzzello et al., 2012 [21]	Unclear/high	Low	Low	N.A.	High	High	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Schwartz et al., 2014 [13]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Scott et al., 2014 [56]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Sharp et al., 2015 [57]	High	Low	Low	N.A.	High	High	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	High
Sheffield et al., 2013 [58]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Sprenger et al., 2016 [59]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low
Xu et al., 2013 [8]	Low	Low	Low	N.A.	High	Low	N.A.	Low	N.A.	Low	Low