

Orthopaedic Section, OHSIG Literature Review #1

A structured evidence-based review on the meaning of nonorganic physical signs: Waddell signs.

Fishbain, David A., et al. "A Structured Evidence-Based Review on the Meaning of Nonorganic Physical Signs: Waddell Signs." *Pain Medicine* 4.2 (2003): 141-181.

Background: Waddell's Signs are a series of 8 clinical findings grouped into five categories that have been reported to aid in the assessment on non-organic low back pain (LBP.)

Research: The systematic review by Fishbain et al. critiqued 60 studies of Waddell's Signs that were published between 1980 and 2000. They found that, while positive Waddell's Signs were associated with poorer treatment outcomes, the tests did not reliably detect malingering. They also found that there was poor intertester reliability for the Waddell's Signs and that there was no correlation between positive signs and catastrophizing.

Clinical Commentary: This systematic review found no significant statistical evidence to support the use of Waddell's Signs, a commonly used clinical assessment tool. Care needs to be taken with the results of these tests, as research does not support their efficacy in identifying malingering, secondary gains, or other non-organic sources of low back pain.

Original Article:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1046/j.1526-4637.2003.03015.x/abstract?deniedAccessCustomisedMessage=&userIsAuthenticated=false>

Good Links: Check out <http://www.apta.org/CSM/> OHSIG programming scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 8am-1pm (membership meeting 12-1pm).

Tuesday, February 4, 8-10am: Workforce Trends and Their Impact on PT Practice: Aging, Obesity, and Other Complications

https://apta.expoplanner.com/index.cfm?do=expomap.sess&event_id=14&session_id=2227

Tuesday, February 4, 11am - 1pm: Functional Job Descriptions: The Place to Begin and End when Managing Work Place Injury Prevention and Treatment followed by Occupational Health SIG Business Meeting

https://apta.expoplanner.com/index.cfm?do=expomap.sess&event_id=14&session_id=2366