

Evaluation

Study Design: Randomized controlled trial

Questions for consideration:

- How patients were allocated to interventions (randomization)
- Concealment of allocation list specified (e.g. opaque envelopes, central list in secure location)
- Baseline characteristics compared between groups in tabular form
- Index and control interventions are explicitly described
- Co-interventions are comparable between groups
- Masking (blinding) of all participants (patients, caregivers, assessors of outcome) in which this can reasonably be done
- Methods for outcome measurement equal between groups
- Complete accounting for participants (reasons for dropout given, percent lost to followup similar between groups)
- All important outcomes are given—this includes short (e.g. 1 month) and long term (e.g. 1-2 year) outcomes, functional measures and not just pain scores, adverse effects of treatment
- Results applicable to workers' compensation population
- Statistical analysis makes sense

Sponsorship, funding source, and competing interests of authors clearly stated

Conclusions: (inadequate, adequate, high-quality)

Are the authors' conclusions convincingly supported by methods and results, or are alternative interpretations of the same data also plausible? What else might the results mean?