

Appendix 3: Supplementary tables [posted as supplied by author]

Table A Work status at baseline and 2 year follow-up.

Work status baseline/2-year follow-up	No (%) allocated to surgery	No (%) allocated to rehabilitation	P value*
Work/work	13 (18.4)	9 (14.1)	0.41
Work/not work	1 (1.5)	2 (3.1)	0.53
Not work/Work	20 (29.9)	18 (28.1)	0.83
Not work/Not work	22 (32.8)	25 (39.1)	0.46
Part time work/Full time work or Not work/Part time work	8 (11.9)	4 (6.2)	0.26
Full time work/Part time work or Part time work/Not work	3 (4.5)	6 (9.4)	0.27
Total	67 (100)	64 (100)	
Net back to work†	21 (31.3)	15 (23.4)	0.31

*Chi-square test.

†Patients who stopped working were subtracted from those who went back to work. Back to part-time working from not working was considered half back to work and vice-versa. Homemakers ($n=1$), students ($n=6$), patients lost to follow-up ($n=31$), the unemployed ($n=2$), and patients for whom data were missing ($n=2$) were excluded while patients with disability pension were included in the analysis. Data were collected from patients and from the Norwegian national insurance of employees. Patients who crossed over to the other treatment were considered in their initial group and included in the analysis.

Table B Patients lost to follow-up after randomization.

Randomized treatment	Received treatment	ODI		Back pain at follow-up*	Work at follow-up*	Timing of withdrawal
		Baseline	Follow-up*			
Rehabilitation	Surgery: disc prosthesis	68	34	30	Rehabilitation	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery for disc herniation	44	32	57	50% work	After treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery: disc prosthesis	28	2	1	Work	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery: disc prosthesis	42	14	3	Rehabilitation	During treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery for disc herniation	46	60	82	Rehabilitation	During treatment
Surgery	Surgery: with x-stop	33	50	85	80% sick leave	Before treatment
Rehabilitation†	Rehabilitation	30			?	After treatment
Surgery	No treatment	42	32	80	Work	Before treatment
Surgery	Rehabilitation	40	24	56	Work	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation	30	32	57	Rehabilitation	After treatment
Surgery	Surgery: disc prosthesis and leg amputation	42	32	0	?	After treatment
Rehabilitation	No treatment	30	54	82	Rehabilitation	During treatment
Surgery	Surgery: twice for disc herniation	34	40	71	Work	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery: fusion	32	10	18	Work	Before treatment
Surgery	Surg. disc prosthesis	60	0	0	Work	After treatment
Surgery	No treatment	50	36	92	Disability pension	Before treatment
Rehabilitation†	Rehabilitation	34			Died of cancer	After treatment
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation	56	44	56	Work	After treatment
Surgery†	No treatment	32			Rehabilitation	Before treatment
Surgery†	Surgery: disc prosthesis	35			?	After treatment
Surgery	No treatment	32	34	51	Disability pension	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	No treatment	50	34	93	50% rehabilitation 50% disability pension	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	No treatment	44	24	58	Work	During treatment
Rehabilitation	No treatment	62	60	85	Work	During treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery: disc prosthesis	60	28	9	Work	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	Surgery: disc prosthesis	48	22	26	50% work	Before treatment

Rehabilitation†	Rehabilitation	44			Disability pension	After treatment
Surgery	Surgery: disc prosthesis	34	0	0	Work	After treatment
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation	36	16	24	Work	After treatment
Surgery†	?	34			?	Before treatment
Rehabilitation†	Rehabilitation	50			?	After treatment
Surgery	Rehabilitation	40	36	68	Rehabilitation	Before treatment
Rehabilitation	No treatment	69	57	60	Sick leave	Before treatment

Values given are means.

*Follow-up ranged from 2.5 years to 5 years. 29 of 34 patients received a questionnaire (1 patient died of cancer, 4 patients refused participation), 26 responded.

†Did not answer the questionnaire or refused participation.

ODI = Oswestry Disability Index.