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**Impact of restricting diagnostic imaging reimbursement for uncomplicated back pain in Ontario: a population-based interrupted time-series analysis**

| | Item No | Recommendation | Please insert check where included or N/A where not applicable |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Title and abstract** | 1 | (*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract | Design included in revised title |
| | | (*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found | Abstract covers main points and has been shortened |
| **Introduction** | | | |
| Background/rationale | 2 | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported | YES |
| Objectives | 3 | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses | YES |
| **Methods** | | | |
| Study design | 4 | Present key elements of study design early in the paper | YES |
| Setting | 5 | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, treatment, follow-up, and data collection | YES |
| Participants | 6 | (*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up<br>*Case-control study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls<br>*Cross-sectional study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants | This is not a cohort or case control study. It uses interrupted time series analysis of repeated complete cross-sectional data |
| | | (*b*) *Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of treated and untreated<br>*Case-control study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Participants | 13* | (a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed | The 'participants' are test ordering physicians – classified as family practitioners and specialists |
| | | (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage | N/A – all are included |
| Descriptive data | 14* | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on other treatments and potential confounders | See above |
| | | (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest | The data are complete – all tests were matched to an ordering physician |
| | | (c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount) | Repeated cross-sectional study for 6 years |
| Variables | 7 | Clearly define all outcomes, treatments, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | N/A |
| Data sources/ measurement | 8* | For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group | YES |
| Bias | 9 | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias | The limitations in terms of other background interventions that could influence the outcomes are discussed |
| Study size | 10 | Explain how the study size was arrived at | N/A – we included all tests ordered during the studt period |
| Quantitative variables | 11 | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why | YES |
| Statistical methods | 12 | (*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding | YES |
| | | (*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions | YES |
| | | (*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed | N/A see above |
| | | (*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed<br>*Case-control study*—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed<br>*Cross-sectional study*—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy | N/A |
| | | (*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses | N/A |

*Give information separately for cases and controls.