

Supplementary data

Table S1 Risk of bias assessment

Risk of bias items	Helms 2020	Lodigiani 2020	Pavoni 2020	Tang-1 2020	Tang-2 2020
1. Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables, e.g. age, sex, occupation?	No	No	No	No	No
2. Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, OR, was a census undertaken?	No	No	No	No	No
4. Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5. Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Was an acceptable case definition used in the study?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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)?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9. Was the length of the shortest prevalence period for the parameter of interest appropriate?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the parameter of interest appropriate?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Summary item on the overall risk of study bias	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low