



SPINE SEARCH TERMS - THORACIC OUTLET SYNDROME (TOS) MEDICAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES

The Table below represents the specific search terms used for the Division of Workers' Compensation Shoulder Injury Medical Treatment Guidelines. Article titles containing an obvious mismatch with search criteria were eliminated: eg. pediatric population; wrong intervention; wrong body part.

Please note that because the literature search was conducted concurrently with the Shoulder Injury Medical Treatment Guidelines, the same literature search was used for both Guidelines.

Inclusion criteria: Studies in English; Human; Adults (Specific Search Terms, dates of searches, years spanned and numbers of articles selected are in the table below).

Limiting Criteria: RCT **OR** Meta-analysis

Database: PubMed

Number of articles initially identified: 391

Number of articles excluded from those initially identified: 85

Number of articles selected for further review: 306

Number of articles used to support evidence statements ("Strong, Good, Some"): 40
"Strong Evidence"- 4 "Good Evidence"- 21 "Some Evidence"- 15

Division Definitions of Strength of Evidence:



- “Some” means the recommendation considered at least one adequate scientific study, which reported that a treatment was effective. The Division recognizes that further research is likely to have an impact on the intervention’s effect.
- “Good” means the recommendation considered the availability of multiple adequate scientific studies or at least one relevant high-quality scientific study, which reported that a treatment was effective. The Division recognizes that further research may have an impact on the intervention’s effect.
- “Strong” means the recommendation considered the availability of multiple relevant and high-quality scientific studies, which arrived at similar conclusions about the effectiveness of a treatment. The Division recognizes that further research is unlikely to have an important impact on the intervention’s effect.

Abstracts were reviewed and articles were then excluded based on the criteria below:

- Lack of relevancy to workers’ compensation non-chronic back pain population
- Major obvious errors in study protocol (eg. lack of control group even though study was listed as an RCT).
- Whether they were included in another meta-analysis (eg. Cochrane Collaboration, BMJ Clinical Evidence).
- Duplicates
- Study too old
- Cadaverous studies
- Pediatric population
- Preliminary results
- Healthy volunteers
- Studies not applicable to treatment guidelines spine conditions, such as tumor studies.
- Studies too technical in nature to meet the objective of the guideline (examples, types of screws used in surgery).

The Date of the Search: was August of 2013.

The Search Comprised the years of January, 1987 to August, 2013



Limiting Criteria was: Human; Adults; Meta-analysis; Randomized Controlled Trial

The Search Terms were as follows:

- **Acromioclavicular Joint**
- **Adhesive Capsulitis/Frozen Shoulder**
- **Bicipital Tendon Disorder**
- **Brachial Plexus Injuries**
- **Axillary Nerve**
- **Long Thoracic Nerve**
- **Musculocutaneous Nerve**
- **Spinal Accessory Nerve**
- **Suprascapular Nerve**
- **Rotator Cuff Tear Tendonopathy (Bursitis)**
- **Calcifying Tendonitis**
- **Clavicular Fracture**
- **Proximal Humeral Fracture**
- **Humeral Shaft Fracture**



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- **Scapular Fracture**
- **Sternoclavicular Dislocation/Fracture**
- **Impingement Syndrome**
- **Rotator Cuff Tear**
- **Shoulder Instability/Glenohumeral Instability**
- **SLAP Lesion**