Comorbidities in patients consulting their general practitioner for low back pain

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INTRODUCTION
Low back pain (LBP) in France: A major public health problem
One in two adults suffer from LBP at least once a year1

OBJECTIVE
Describe comorbidities of patients from 18 to 65 consulting for LBP in GP

METHODS
ECOGEN = French national cross-sectional study
• 128 GPs, one day per week, 5 months
• ICPC-2 (International Classification in Primary Care)
• Data = socio-demographic characteristics of patients, reasons for encounter, results of consultation and procedures

Extraction of data: patients = 18-65
Low back pain with or without sciatica= L03 or L84 or L86 as a result
Comorbidities : the chapter headings of the ICPC, psychopathology and somatoform disorders, code for work problem
Analysis: comparison of Comorbidities in consultations with or without LBP
One result by consultation removed:
• Consultation without LBP = randomly removed
• Consultation with LBP= the result of consultation LBP removed

RESULTS

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<th>Table 1 : Characteristics of the consultations</th>
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DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION
• National study = an important source of data for primary care research in France.
• Few disorders (as results of consultation) related to LBP
  • Digestive disorders: could be due to adverse drug reactions
  • Work problems: cause or consequence?
• Contrary to the literature: psychopathology and somatoform disorders not related to LBP
• Limits: - No information about the duration of LBP: acute? chronic? recurrent?
  • No information about the past medical history of patients: only transversal data.

REFERENCES

decided to participate n=168
<18 or >65 n=9103
Patients 18-65 =11510 results of consultation
LBP 845 consultations = 7.3%
854 results of consultation
>846 LBP
10665 consultations
>1088 comorbidities
Non LBP 21998 results of consultation
>10665 randomly removed
>11333 kept for analysis

Table 2 : Comparison of comorbidities (LBP versus no-LBP consultations)

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number (percentage); * = Code corresponding to an item of the score PHQ15: somatoform disorders

Table 3 : Comparison of comorbidities (LBP versus no-LBP consultations)