

Brief Review on the Etiologies of the Acute and Subacute Low Back Pain

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Received date: August 01, 2021; Accepted date: August 19, 2021; Published date: September 01, 2021

Citation: Behzad Saberi, (2021). Brief Review on the Etiologies of the Acute and Subacute Low Back Pain. *J Clinical Research and Reports*, 9(1); DOI:10.31579/2690-1919/191

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Abstract

Acute low back pain is a type of pain which usually lasts for six weeks. In the cases that the pain lasts for more than six weeks, subacute low back pain would be defined. This is a brief review on the etiologies of the acute and subacute low back pain.

Key Words: low back pain; acute; subacute; sacroiliitis; spondylolysis; musculoligamentous sprain; clinicians; patients

Summary

Acute low back pain is a type of pain which usually lasts for six weeks. In the cases that the pain lasts for more than six weeks, subacute low back pain would be defined. This is a brief review on the etiologies of the acute and subacute low back pain [1].

Infections, spinal tumors, trauma, inflammation, pathological fractures and referred pain originated from visceral organs can cause various degrees of acute and subacute low back pain. Meningitis, myelitis, diskitis, various types of spondylitis including pyogenic, parasitic, fungal and granulomatous spondylitis and subdural and epidural abscesses are among the infectious causes. Postoperative, myofascial syndrome, disk herniation which is occurred after trauma, lumbosacral strain, spondylolisthesis, musculoligamentous sprain and spondylolysis are among the traumatic causes. Sacral insufficiency and lumbar compression fractures are the pathological fractures which can cause acute and subacute low back pain. Sacroiliitis is the inflammatory cause for the occurrence of such pain. Intramedullary, intradural and extradural spinal cord tumors can cause various degrees of acute and subacute low back pain [2,3]. Sciatic nerve or lumbosacral plexus involvement by various reasons, plexus or radicular ischemia caused by occlusive vascular disease and abdominal aortic aneurysms which would erode the vertebrae can cause referred low back pain [4].

Having knowledge about the etiologies of acute and subacute low back pain is important for the clinicians to approach the relevant patients properly during clinical practice.

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