

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

The impact of physical load on the course of low back pain

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1. To measure the relevant aspects of occupational exposure to physical load, the three essential parameters level, frequency, and duration have to be taken into account simultaneously. *This thesis*
2. Among low back pain patients lifting and carrying loads over 10 kg is a risk factor for future aggravation of low back pain episodes. *This thesis*
3. In epidemiological studies on work-related determinants of low back pain the full spectrum of low back pain definitions must be considered because different factors may be associated with different endpoints of low back pain. *This thesis*
4. A constant prevalence of serious low back pain in population masks the strong dynamics of low back pain episodes among individuals. *This thesis*
5. The approach of years of work lost is a more adequate description of the adverse effects of work-related risk factors for an inevitable recurrent disease, such as low back pain, than the relative risk or attributable fraction. *This thesis*

6. In cohort studies of recurrent diseases the chosen time-window for recall has a large influence on the estimated incidence of cases.
7. Bootstrapping should be part of introductory courses in statistics
8. Within the framework of probabilistic models a cost-minimization analysis to define the most economical treatment among different alternatives with non-significant differences in efficacy cannot be defended.
9. The use of discrete event simulation in pharmacoeconomics should be driven by the research question of interest and not by the popularity of the method.
10. Writing a thesis can be characterized by the frequency, duration, and intensity of recurrent episodes of work.
11. Although finding new solutions to old problems is fun, they seldom appear an improvement over old solutions in the long run.
12. Uncertainty and mystery are energies of life. Don't let them scare you unduly, for they keep boredom at bay and spark creativity. *R. I. Fitzhenry*