



The Bone and Joint Decade 2000–2010 Task Force on Neck Pain and Its Associated Disorders Executive Summary

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In 2000, The Task Force on Neck Pain and Its Associated Disorders was established. In 2002, the Task Force was given official status by the Steering Committee of the Bone and Joint Decade, an initiative of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

Over its lifespan, the Task Force consisted of a 5-member Executive Committee, a 13-member Scientific Secretariat, a 17-member Advisory Committee, and 18 research associates and graduate students. Committee members originated from 9 countries and represented 19 clinical and scientific disciplines or specialties. The Task Force was affiliated with 8 collaborating universities and research institutes in 4 countries, and 11 professional organizations agreed to become nonfinancial sponsors.

Members of the Neck Pain Task Force feel that the most productive use of this review is to inform and empower the public—more specifically people with neck pain or who are at risk of developing neck pain. The most valuable outcome and contribution will be a change of attitudes and beliefs about neck pain and its prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management.

This supplement contains the results of a systematic review of the literature and best evidence synthesis. A total of 31,878 citations were screened, and 1203 relevant articles were accepted for review. Ultimately, some 552 scientific papers were deemed to be scientifically admissible for the best evidence synthesis.

In addition, a number of original research projects were conducted within the Task Force mandate. These included a population-based case-control and case-crossover study on the risk of vertebrobasilar stroke with chiropractic care; a study on the epidemiology of vertebrobasilar stroke in 2 Canadian provinces; a decision analysis of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), exercise, and manual therapy for patients with neck pain; and finally, a study of the prevalence and incidence of work absenteeism associated with neck pain from a cohort of Ontario workers' compensation claimants.

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