

Supplementary

Supplementary A – variable characteristics

Table 1 Variable characteristics

Variables	Type	Subtype	Categories	Codes
Age	Numeric	Continuous		
Region of admission	Categorical	Nominal	Region of Zealand, and -Northern Jutland, Capitol-, Southern Denmark-, and Central Denmark Region	
Admission department	Categorical	Nominal	Emergency-, medical- and surgical department	
Diagnosis	Categorical	Nominal	Cervical disc herniation (CDH) Any of following diagnoses used in hospital contacts <u>prior to</u> <u>diagnostication of cervical disc herniation</u> : panniculitis in the neck, radiculitis of no other specification (UNS), cervical neck pain, (ICD-10 codes)	DM50: Cervical disc herniation DM540: panniculitis in the neck DM541: radiculitis UNS DM542: Cervical neck pain
Surgery	Categorical	Nominal	Cervical surgery of Cervical disc herniation(-s) (SKS codes)	KABC01 KABC10 KABC20 KABC21 KABC30 KABC50 KABC60 KABE50
Work capacity 1 year prior	Numeric	Continuous	(37hours/week reference)	
Return-time to regained initial work capacity	Categorical	Ordinal	No change, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2 years	

Supplementary B – Analysis of no-return and gained no previous work capacity according to type of department

	Work Capacity 1 year prior to admission											
	Workers with <u>no</u> return of their previous work capacity								Low baseline capacity improved >20% of a normal work week			
	High work capacity				Intermediate work capacity							
	Department at admission				Department at admission				Department at admission			
	ED	MD	SD	Total (n)	ED	MD	SD	Total (n)	ED	MD	SD	Total (n)
Region of admission												
Denmark	46	206	99	≤152	-	32	21	≤23	21	83	83	≤81
Capitol Region (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	124	167	36	45	-	-	-	-	≤22	66	≤22	≤15
Regions of Zealand (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	≤48	416	-	≤29	-	64	-	4	≤48	160	≤48	≤16
Region of Southern Denmark (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	-	267	100	33	-	≤33	33	≤6	-	122	100	20
Region of Central Denmark (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	-	133	153	28	-	41	31	7	≤31	≤31	112	≤17
Region of Northern Denmark (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	-	≤ 68	315	≤17	-	≤68	68	≤6	-	≤68	225	≤13
Surgery rate in percent of admitted patients	9%	2%	9%	17	-	-	≤14%	≤3	-	8%	12%	17
Sustained work capacity (%)**												
Return within 0.5 years (%)**									100%	61%	69%	≤56
Return within 1 years (%)**									100%	≤69%	≤78%	≤6
Return within 1-1.5 years (%)**									100%	86%	100%	14
Return within 2 years (%)**									100%	100%	100%	5
2 years persistent loss of work capacity (%)**	100%	100%	100%	≤152	0%	100%	100%	≤23				

Observations ≤3 denoted "≤" accordingly // "Total (n)" indicates the absolute number of patients in Denmark/region.

* Admission rate per 10,000 of the total CDH-admitted population in the Region

** Intradepartmental cumulated return of work capacity. Percentages in outcome rows are calculated relative to the number admitted to the respective department type.

Supplementary C – Analysis of surgical and no-surgical treatment groups according to type of department

	Receiving surgery				Not receiving surgery			
	Department at admission				Department at admission			
	ED	MD	SD	Total (n)	ED	MD	SD	Total (n)
Region of admission								
Denmark	≤220	421	655	≤560	≤655	5,629	2,418	≤3761
Capitol Region (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	626	116	51	109	1,790	5,793	1,623	1,265
Regions of Zealand (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	≤48	624	176	≤53	256	8,224	624	569
Region of Southern Denmark (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	≤33	991	1,214	≤201	67	6,626	1,080	698
Region of Central Denmark (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	≤31	265	663	≤94	122	4,353	4,577	888
Region of Northern Denmark (per 10,000 of the admitted)*	0	270	2,050	103	≤68	2,275	5,338	≤341
Sustained work capacity (%)**	64%	60%	59%	338	57%	48%	56%	1,915
Return within 0.5 years (%)**	78%	75%	78%	92	72%	58%	69%	421
Return within 1 years (%)**	≤81%	80%	82%	≤24	76%	61%	72%	110
Return within 1-1.5 years (%)**	81%	83%	85%	14	78%	63%	74%	74
Return within 2 years (%)**	81%	85%	≤87%	≤8	78%	63%	75%	20
2 years persistent loss of work capacity (%)**	19%	15%	13%	83	22%	37%	25%	1,221

Observations ≤3 denoted "≤" accordingly // "Total (n)" indicates the absolute number of patients in Denmark/region.

* Admission rate per 10,000 of the total CDH-admitted population in the Region

** Intradepartmental cumulated return of work capacity. Percentages in outcome rows are calculated relative to the number admitted to the respective department type.