

2. International Taskforce on Diagnosis and Management of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

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Tuesday May 2, 09:00 - 12:30

Location: Pan Pacific Hotel - Woodside 1&2

At ISSLS 2019 in Kyoto, the Focus Group “International Taskforce on Diagnosis and Management of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis” met for a sixth time with the aim to complete Phase 3 of Round 2 of our **international Delphi study on diagnostic tests for LSS** (final consensus) and to discuss a planned **Delphi study for standardized treatment pathway for LSS**.

In early 2019, we sent out the online survey to the spine community with the aim to identify which out of 11 diagnostic tests (agreed upon at the ISSLS LSS Focus Group meeting in 2018 in Banff) are the most important when confirming whether a patient has LSS. At the ISSLS Focus Group meeting in Kyoto a consensus was made to recommend 3 **diagnostic core tests confirming the diagnosis of LSS** and 3 **additional tests to rule out other conditions/diseases** and published one year after this Focus Group meeting (*Diagnostic tests in the clinical diagnosis of lumbar spinal stenosis: Consensus and Results of an International Delphi Study*. Tomkins-Lane C, Melloh M, Wong A. *Eur Spine J*. 2020 Sep;29(9):2188-2197).

In addition, a planned **Delphi study for standardized treatment pathway for LSS** was discussed at the ISSLS LSS Focus Group meeting in Kyoto. At the meeting, the Focus Group provided the **recommendations** to check the NASS LSS guidelines for diagnostic tests, to consider results from this Focus Group on clinical symptoms and diagnostic tests for LSS, and to provide information regarding the prognosis/progression of patients with LSS. Following these recommendations, the standardised treatment pathway was published earlier this year (*Consensus on a standardised treatment pathway algorithm for lumbar spinal stenosis: an international Delphi study*. Comer C, Ammendolia C, Battié MC, Bussières A, Fairbank J, Haig A, Melloh M, Redmond A, Schneider MJ, Standaert CJ, Tomkins-Lane C, Williamson E, Wong AY. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*. 2022 Jun 8;23(1):550).

We propose a seventh Focus Group meeting at ISSLS / SpineWeek Melbourne in 2023 with the aim to gather, in a first step, **outcome assessment instruments including new and emerging objective and self-report measures** (such as wearables, apps, etc) **used in the assessment of treatment for LSS** (Round 1, Phase a).

We are very appreciative of the support from ISSLS to date and hope to continue with this highly productive Focus Group in Melbourne.

Thank you for your consideration.

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