

# Occupational (and non-occupational) risk factors for musculoskeletal disorders

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## KEY WORDS

Musculoskeletal disorders; occupational diseases; occupational risk; non-occupational risk-factors

## SUMMARY

**Background:** *Musculoskeletal disorders are an important cause of disability and absence from work in industrialized countries. A number of studies reported the importance of occupational, personal and psycho-social factors in the aetiology of these work-related disorders.* **Objectives and Methods:** *To stress the complex relationships existing between risk factors, reporting findings from reviews and original studies regarding two of the most significant musculoskeletal disorders: carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) and low back pain (LBP).* **Conclusions:** *More detailed epidemiological studies are needed to explore the interactions between risk (and protective) factors, since these can play the role of determinants, confounders or effect modifiers.*