

Clinical decision-making and patients expectations: is there a link?

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The European Spine Journal constitutes a forum where all aspects related to the spine are discussed. This includes cognitive aspects and their relationship to the spine.

In the course of treating a condition both doctors and patients have expectations and ideally these should align. In this issue, we see how Kamper et al. [1] examined whether expectations change over time, but there are many other factors influencing patient's expectations. The quality of the patient–doctor relationship, the cultural background and illness perception are but a few. There is place for more scrutiny.

Psychological studies have long shown the effects of expectations on judgment. Patients and doctors continuously face the challenge of clinical decision-making, and here too, there are many factors influencing this

process. Is there a link? Does a clinical decision-making affect patient's expectations or vice versa? In other words, can a patient have different expectations for option A and option B? The European Spine Journal has a particular interest in these questions and looks forward to further research in the field.

Conflict of interest None.

Reference

1. Kamper SJ, Kongsted A, Haanstra TM, Hestbaek L (2015) Do recovery expectations change over time? Eur Spine J. doi:[10.1007/s00586-014-3380-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00586-014-3380-1)

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