



Project Title: Prognosis of patients with vertebral compression fracture: A systematic review with meta-analysis		Code: FHS1
Host School / Institute: Faculty of Health Sciences	Address: Cumberland Campus, 75 East Street, Lidcombe NSW	
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Anita Barros Carlos de Amorim		
Phone: 0401 399 572	Email: anita.amorim@sydney.edu.au	
<p>Co-Supervisor/team: The research team who will be involved with the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professor Evangelos Pappas, Head of Discipline, Discipline of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Health Sciences - Associate Professor Paulo H Ferreira, Discipline of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Health Sciences - Associate Professor Manuela Ferreira, Institute of Bone and Joint Research, Sydney School of Public Health - Dr Milena Simic, Discipline of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney. 		
Project Type: Literature Review; Other		
Project Category: Public Health; Ageing		
<p>Skills / Attributes of a successful student: The successful student should be attentive and conscientious; should be able to follow instructions but also work independently; should have good communication skills and familiarity with reading research papers. Attention to detail is required as data will be extracted from many studies. We will help with all steps of preparation of the systematic review.</p>		
Project Keywords: Vertebral fragility fracture; Prognosis; Systematic review; Pain; Quality of life		
<p>Project Description: The world population continues to grow older at an exceptional rate. As a result of this aging phenomenon, the incidence of osteoporosis is also rising. Likewise, the prevalence of vertebral fragility fractures (VFFs), one of the most common manifestations of osteoporosis, is increasing rapidly. Despite the large amount of people affected by VFFs, little is known about its natural course. Although VFFs rarely require hospital admission, they have the potential to cause significant pain, disability and morbidity, often leading to severe low back pain and decreased mobility. To address this current evidence gap, we will conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis to summarize the current evidence of the course of an osteoporotic VFF and obtain quantitative estimates of the prognosis of pain and disability, re-fracture rates, and quality of life following a VFF.</p> <p>Systematic reviews are considered to be the basis for guidelines of medical practice suggesting directions for new research by both highlighting the quality of existing studies and by themselves providing a high-quality summary. This project will provide an opportunity to improve research skills, including the preparation of systematic reviews, study design, search and selection of studies, data extraction, and analysis and preparation of peer-reviewed manuscripts for publication.</p>		