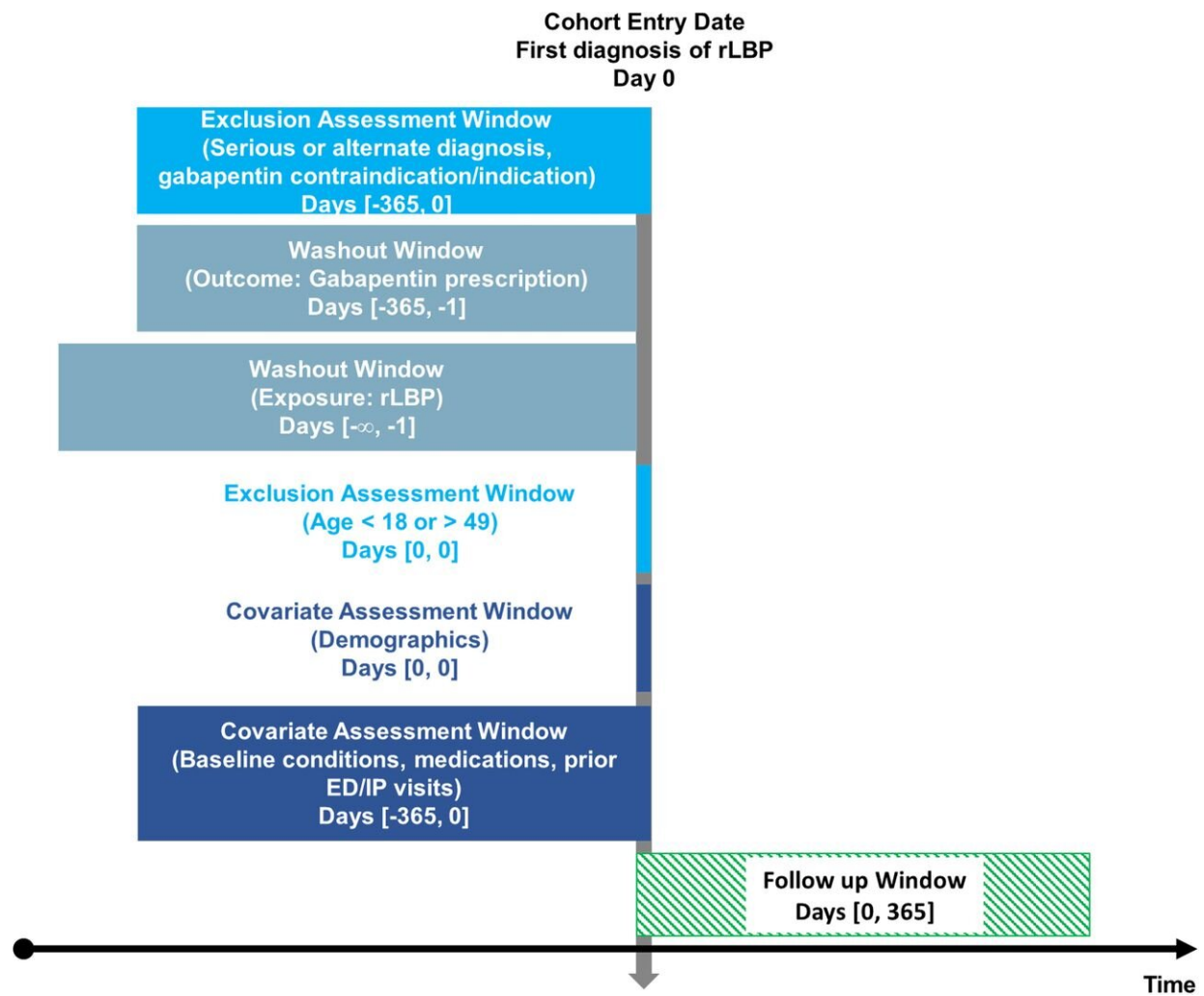


Reduced likelihood of gabapentin prescription in US adults receiving chiropractic spinal manipulation for low back pain

July 25 2023



Graphical depiction of study design. The vertical arrow represents the index date

of diagnosis of radicular low back pain. Assessment windows to the left of the vertical arrow represent time periods occurring before this date over a span of days (#,#). The '∞' indicates that the time window extends as far previous as data are available per patient. Windows overlapping with the vertical arrow occur on the date of index diagnosis. The follow-up window occurring after the index diagnosis is indicated by a green rectangle. Image created by Robert Trager using creative commons template from Schneeweiss et al,⁷⁹ using Microsoft PowerPoint V.2206. ED, emergency department; IP, inpatient; rLBP, radicular low back pain. Credit: *BMJ Open* (2023). DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-073258

A new study conducted by researchers at University Hospitals (UH) Connor Whole Health sheds light on potential benefits of chiropractic care for adults with radicular low back pain (i.e., sciatica).

The study, published in *BMJ Open*, entitled "Association between chiropractic spinal manipulation and [gabapentin](#) prescription in [adults](#) with radicular low back pain: [retrospective cohort study](#) using U.S. [data](#)," investigated the relationship between chiropractic [spinal manipulative therapy](#) (CSMT) and the prescription of gabapentin, an off-label treatment for radicular low back pain.

The researchers hypothesized that adults under 50 years of age receiving CSMT for newly diagnosed radicular low back pain would have reduced odds of being prescribed gabapentin over a one-year follow-up period. Using a retrospective cohort study design, the research team analyzed data from a large U.S. health care network comprising millions of patient records.

The CSMT cohort had significantly lower odds of receiving a gabapentin prescription compared to the usual medical care cohort. The odds ratio was 0.53 (p

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