

First author	Publication year	Title	Reason for exclusion ^a
Abram SE	1979	Nerve blocks for low back pain	1
Ackerman WE	2008	Pain relief with intraarticular or medial branch nerve blocks in patients with positive lumbar facet joint SPECT imaging: a 12-week outcome study	2
Aguirre DA	2005	Spinal CT-guided interventional procedures for management of chronic back pain	4
Anderberg L	2004	Selective diagnostic cervical nerve root block – correlation with clinical symptoms and MRI-pathology	2
Anderberg L	2007	Transforaminal steroid injections for the treatment of cervical radiculopathy: a prospective and randomised study	2
Anderberg L	2006	Selective diagnostic nerve root block for the evaluation of radicular pain in the multilevel degenerated cervical spine	2
Anderberg L	2006	Distribution patterns of transforaminal injections in the cervical spine evaluated by multi-slice computed tomography	2
Arnhoff FN	1977	Follow-up status of patients treated with nerve blocks for low-back pain	1
Arnold PM	2009	Efficacy of injection therapy for symptomatic lumbar synovial cysts	1
Auroy Y	2002	Major complications of regional anesthesia in France: The SOS Regional Anesthesia Hotline Service	2
Auroy Y	1997	Serious complications related to regional anesthesia: results of a prospective survey in France	2
Balague F	1998	How to recognize and treat specific low back pain?	1
Ball HC	1964	Experiences with therapeutic nerve blocks	2
Bard H	1996	Lumbar nerve root infiltrations	1
Bartynski WS	2010	Adjacent double-nerve root contributions in unilateral lumbar radiculopathy	5
Bernard TN	1988	Posterior facet joint injection, selective nerve root sheath infiltration, and lumbar discography followed by computerized-tomography – refining the diagnosis in low-back pain	5
Bilinski P	1985	The lignocaine test in the diagnosis of pain in the lumbosacral spine	5
Blankenbaker DG	2005	Lumbar radiculopathy: treatment with selective lumbar nerve blocks – comparison of effectiveness of triamcinolone and betamethasone injectable suspensions	4
Bonetti M	2005	Intraforaminal O(2)–O(3) versus periradicular steroidal infiltrations in lower back pain: randomized controlled study	4
Bourne IHJ	2000	Tender point injection of corticosteroid in the treatment of backache	2
Boxem KV	2009	Re: Staal JB, de Bie R, de Vet HC, <i>et al.</i> Injection therapy for subacute and chronic low-back pain	1

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Brena SF	1990	Chronic back pain: electromyographic, motion and behavioral assessments following sympathetic nerve blocks and placebos	2
Bridenbaugh PO	1974	Role of epinephrine in regional block anesthesia with etidocaine: a double-blind study	2
Brothers MA	1968	Evaluation of low back pain by differential spinal block	3
Brull R	2007	Neurological complications after regional anesthesia: contemporary estimates of risk	1
Bundens DA	1985	Lumbar nerve root injection as an adjunct to sciatica diagnosis	6
Burgher AH	2011	Transforaminal epidural Clonidine versus corticosteroid for acute lumbosacral radiculopathy due to intervertebral disc herniation	4
Carragee EJ	2004	Diagnostic evaluation of low back pain	1
Castro WH	1991	The diagnostic value of selective lumbar nerve root block	6
Castro WH	1994	How reliable is lumbar nerve root sheath infiltration?	5
Chandler G	2000	Comparison of thoracic versus lumbar Gray Ramus communicans nerve block in the treatment of painful osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture	4
Chapman SL	1982	Learned helplessness and responses to nerve blocks in chronic low back pain patients	5
Collucci J	1992	Complications of blinded lumbar sympathetic blocks	2
Cowan NC	1992	The natural history of sciatica: a prospective radiological study	3
Crall TS	2006	The diagnostic effect of various needle tip positions in selective lumbar nerve blocks: an analysis of 1202 injections	5
Culling RD	1992	Corticosteroid injections for chronic low back pain	1
Daffner SD	2010	Cost and use of conservative management of lumbar disc herniation before surgical discectomy	2
Dam W	1974	Peripheral nerve blocks in relief of intractable pain	1
De Tran QH	2007	A review of approaches and techniques for lower extremity nerve blocks	1
Derby R	1992	Response to steroid and duration of radicular pain as predictors of surgical outcome	6
Dooley J	1986	Nerve root infiltration in the diagnosis of radicular pain	7
Fairbank J	1999	The use and interpretation of diagnostic nerve root blocks	1
Faraj AA	2006	The value of nerve root infiltration for leg pain when used with a nerve stimulator	5
Gallucci M	2007	Sciatica: treatment with intradiscal and intraforaminal injections of steroid and oxygen-ozone versus steroid only	3
Ghahreman A	2010	The efficacy of transforaminal injection of steroids for the treatment of lumbar radicular pain	3
Gharibo CG	1999	Spinal injections in diagnosis and treatment of low back pain	1
Gillies JH	1997	Corticosteroid injections for sciatica	1
Gulevich S	2009	Sciatic and suprascapular nerve block are effective for back and neck/shoulder pain	5
Haaker R	1999	Complications of injection treatment of the cervical spine and the lumbar spine	1

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Hanefeld C	2005	Effects of lumbar spinal nerve analgesia on the cardiovascular system	4
Hatangdi VS	1975	Management of intractable pain: the scope and role of nerve blocks: review of one year's experience	3
Haueisen DC	1985	The diagnostic accuracy of spinal nerve injection studies. Their role in the evaluation of recurrent sciatica	6
Hebl JR	2010	Neuraxial blockade in patients with pre-existing spinal stenosis, lumbar disk disease, or prior spine surgery: efficacy and neurologic complications	4
Herron LD	1989	Selective nerve root block in patient selection for lumbar surgery: surgical results	6
Hildebrandt J	2001	Relevance of nerve blocks in treating and diagnosing low back pain – is the quality decisive?	1
Huston CW	2005	Complications and side effects of cervical and lumbosacral selective nerve root injections	2
Jonsson B	1993	Symptoms and signs in degeneration of the lumbar spine. A prospective, consecutive study of 300 operated patients	3
Jonsson B	1988	Diagnostic lumbar nerve root block	6 ^b
Jurg S	2009	Block of the sinuvertebral nerve: diagnostic value for lumbar discogenic pain and effect on central hypersensitivity	6
Jussila P	1976	Spinal nerve block – diagnostic test in sciatica	1
Karaman H	2011	The complications of transforaminal lumbar epidural steroid injections	4
Karnaugh RD	2010	Large lumbar disk herniations: a clinical outcome study of nonsurgical treatment	4
Karppinen J	2001	Periradicular infiltration for sciatica – a randomized controlled trial	4
Karppinen J	2001	Cost effectiveness of periradicular infiltration for sciatica: subgroup analysis of a randomized controlled trial	4
Kissin I	1989	Blockade of sciatic nerve branches relieves sciatic radicular pain	5
Krempen JF	1974	Nerve-root injection: a method for evaluating the etiology of sciatica	4
Krempen JF	1975	Selective nerve root infiltration for the evaluation of sciatica	1
Law P	2009	Can lumbar spine MRI appearances reliably predict the outcome of selective lumbar nerve root blocks?	5
Liu WJ	1983	Diagnostic and therapeutic value of nerve root infiltration in lumbago and radiculopathy	7
Liu H	2003	Characteristics of nerve root compression caused by degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis with scoliosis	4
Lynch J	1997	Transient radicular irritation after spinal anesthesia with hyperbaric 4% mepivacaine	5
Macrea LM	2009	Influencing factors on the short time outcome of diagnostic radicular blocks for sciatica	5
Manchikanti L	2007	Evaluation of lumbar facet joint nerve blocks in the management of chronic low back pain: preliminary report of a randomized, double-blind controlled trial	2

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Manchikanti L	2010	Making sense of the accuracy of diagnostic lumbar facet joint nerve blocks: an assessment of the implications of 50% relief, 80% relief, single block, or controlled diagnostic blocks	2
Manchikanti L	2006	The effect of sedation on diagnostic validity of facet joint nerve blocks: an evaluation to assess similarities in population with involvement in cervical and lumbar regions	3
Manchikanti L	2000	The diagnostic validity and therapeutic value of lumbar facet joint nerve blocks with or without adjuvant agents	6
Manchikanti L	2002	Periradicular infiltration for sciatica	1
Manchikanti L	2010	Evaluation of lumbar facet joint nerve blocks in managing chronic low back pain: a randomized, double-blind, controlled trial with a 2-year follow-up	2
Manchikanti L	2003	Are diagnostic lumbar medial branch blocks valid? Results of 2-year follow-up	3
Manning DC	1997	Corticosteroid injections for sciatica	1
Marks RC	1992	Facet joint injection and facet nerve block: a randomised comparison in 86 patients with chronic low back pain	4
McCollum DE	1964	The use of graduated spinal anesthesia in the differential diagnosis of pain of the back and lower extremities	3
Medel P	2007	Evaluation of functionality and pain intensity before and after a transformal steroid injection in a preliminary sample of patients with lumbar radiculopathy due to a disk hernia	3
Mendez R	2005	Evaluation of the L2 spinal nerve root infiltration as a diagnostic tool for discogenic low back pain	2
Merryman JM	2000	Diagnostic blocks of the lower back – a clinical interpretation	1
Nakamura SI	1996	The afferent pathways of discogenic low-back pain. Evaluation of L2 spinal nerve infiltration	5
Narozny M	2001	Therapeutic efficacy of selective nerve root blocks in the treatment of lumbar radicular leg pain	4
Ng LCL	2004	Outcomes of a prospective cohort study on peri-radicular infiltration for radicular pain in patients with lumbar disc herniation and spinal stenosis	4
Novak S	2008	RE: cost-effectiveness of diagnostic medial branch blocks before radiofrequency denervation	1
Nowakowski A	2007	Modified algorithm in treatment of patients with chronic low back pain with neuroradiological diagnostic techniques	5
Ochoa G	2010	Disc herniation related sciatica – radicular pain: an expression of a complex regional pain syndrome?	1
O'Neill C	1999	Precision injection techniques for diagnosis and treatment of lumbar disc disease	1
Pampati S	2009	Accuracy of diagnostic lumbar facet joint nerve blocks: a 2-year follow-up of 152 patients diagnosed with controlled diagnostic blocks	2
Pang WW	1998	Application of spinal pain mapping in the diagnosis of low back pain – analysis of 104 cases	2
Pasetto A	1981	Anesthetic block of the articular nerves of luschka in the diagnosis and treatment of lumbar and sciatic pain	2

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Pasetto A	1983	Epidural and spinal block in the diagnosis and treatment of lumbar and sciatic nerve pain	7
Pelz DM	1992	Percutaneous lumbar nerve root blocks	6
Petersohn JD	2004	Predicting outcomes of transforaminal injections for sciatica	1
Pfirschmann CW	2001	Selective nerve root blocks for the treatment of sciatica: evaluation of injection site and effectiveness – a study with patients and cadavers	1
Plastaras CT	2010	Inadvertent intradiscal contrast flow during lumbar transforaminal epidural steroid injections: a case series examining the prevalence of intradiscal injection as well as potential associated factors and adverse events	4
Porter DG	1999	A retrospective study to assess the results of CT-directed peri-neural root infiltration in a cohort of 56 patients with low back pain and sciatica	6
Porzelius J	1995	Memory for pain after nerve-block injections	2
Quinn SF	1988	CT-guided nerve root block and ablation	6 ^b
Riew KD	2006	Nerve root blocks in the treatment of lumbar radicular pain. A minimum five-year follow-up	4
Riew KD	2000	The effect of nerve-root injections on the need for operative treatment of lumbar radicular pain. A prospective, randomized, controlled, double-blind study	4
Sato M	2009	Ultrasound and nerve stimulation-guided L5 nerve root block	6
Schliessbach J	2009	Anaesthetic block of the sinuvertebral nerve: diagnostic value for discogenic pain and modulation of central sensitisation	3
Schliessbach J	2010	Blockade of the sinuvertebral nerve for the diagnosis of lumbar diskogenic pain: an exploratory study	3
Sequeiros RB	2002	MRI-guided periradicular nerve root infiltration therapy in low-field (0.23-T) MRI system using optical instrument tracking	4
Sluijter ME	1981	Percutaneous facet denervation and partial posterior rhizotomy	3
Smith CC	2010	Interlaminar versus transforaminal epidural steroid injections for the treatment of symptomatic lumbar spinal stenosis	4
Stalcup ST	2006	Influence of needle-tip position on the incidence of immediate complications in 2,217 selective lumbar nerve root blocks	4 ^b
Stallmeyer MJ	2002	Facet blocks and sacroiliac joint injections	1
Stanley D	1990	A prospective study of nerve root infiltration in the diagnosis of sciatica. A comparison with radiculography, computed tomography, and operative findings	6
Taguchi T	2002	Reassessment of the diagnostic value of selective lumbosacral radiculography	5
Tajima T	1982	Selective lumbosacral radiculography and block	5 ^b
Tang S	2007	Sufentanil does not enhance the efficacy of ropivacaine in combined lumbar plexus and sciatic block: a controlled, randomised clinical trial	2
Thackeray A	2010	A pilot study examining the effectiveness of physical therapy as an adjunct to selective nerve root block in the treatment of lumbar radicular pain from disk herniation: a randomized controlled trial	4

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Thomas E	2001	Epidural versus foraminal corticoid injections in discal radiculopathy. A double-blind controlled trial	4
Thomas E	2003	Efficacy of transforaminal versus interspinous corticosteroid injection in discal radiculalgia – a prospective, randomised, double-blind study	3
Tosteson ANA	2008	The cost effectiveness of surgical versus nonoperative treatment for lumbar disc herniation over two years: evidence from the Spine Patient Outcomes Research Trial (SPORT)	3
van Akkerveeken PF	1993	The diagnostic value of nerve root sheath infiltration	6
Viton JM	1998	Short-term assessment of periradicular corticosteroid injections in lumbar radiculopathy associated with disc pathology	4
Weiner BK	1997	Foraminal injection for lateral lumbar disc herniation	4
White AH	1983	Injection techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of low back pain	7
Willburger RE	2005	Side effects and complications of injection therapy for degenerative spinal disorders	4
Wilppula E	1977	Spinal nerve block. A diagnostic test in sciatica	6
Wolff AP	2001	Diagnostic lumbosacral segmental nerve blocks with local anesthetics: a prospective double-blind study on the variability and interpretation of segmental effects	5
Wolff AP	2006	Influence of needle position on lumbar segmental nerve root block selectivity	5
Wolff AP	2006	Do diagnostic segmental nerve root blocks in chronic low back pain patients with radiation to the leg lack distinct sensory effects? A preliminary study	6
Xavier AV	1988	Relief of sciatic radicular pain by sciatic nerve block	5

a Reason for exclusion: 1, not a primary study; 2, not patients with low back pain and radicular/lower limb pain; 3, not SNRB; 4, therapeutic not diagnostic; 5, not diagnostic study of SNRB; 6, unable to get 2 × 2 data; 7, unable to retrieve paper.

b Included in review of complications following diagnostic SNRB.

Note: this is a hierarchical model so although a paper could be excluded for more than one reason, the reviewer excluded a paper as soon as one criteria was not fulfilled.