

Additional file 1

Table A

Distribution of type and size of Modic changes per disc level (one disc level = 2 endplates) in 96 patients (1056 endplates) with low back pain and Modic changes.

Disc level	No MC	Type of Modic changes (n)						Size of Modic changes (n)			
		Type I	Type II	Type III	Mixed I/II	Mixed II/III	Mixed I/III	EP only	<25%	25-50%	>50%
Th12/L1*	95	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
L1/L2	182	2	4	0	2	0	2	1	6	0	3
L2/L3	172	8	10	0	0	0	2	5	6	4	5
L3/L4	160	14	11	0	3	2	2	7	16	5	4
L4/L5	126	23	36	0	7	0	0	17	18	18	13
L5/S1	59	57	31	0	29	12	4	14	49	48	22
Total	794	105	92	0	41	14	10	45	95	75	47

*In this disc level only the upper endplate of L1 is evaluated. EP=endplate.

The 'EP only' category is artificial small as patients were only included in the original trial if they had at least one level with Modic changes extended beyond the endplate into the vertebral body.

Table B

Distribution of severe disc degeneration and type of herniation per disc level in 96 patients (480 discs) with low back pain and Modic changes.

Disc level	Degeneration (n)			Type of herniation (n)			
	Severe disc degeneration	Normal	Bulging	Focal	Broad-based	Extrusion	Sequestration
L1/L2	4	75	20	1	0	0	0
L2/L3	4	63	31	1	0	1	0
L3/L4	6	50	41	3	2	0	0
L4/L5	13	21	50	13	6	6	0
L5/S1	24	20	43	14	5	13	1
Total	51	229	185	32	13	20	1