

Supplemental table 1. Protocol for obtaining facet follow-up data in individuals who sought alternative care for failed treatment.

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| Negative MBB with no alternative care before 1-month visit. | Follow-up data recorded at 1-month. |
| Negative MBB in a person who alternative care was provided (e.g. prescription). | 1-month follow-up data recorded before care was started (i.e. failed treatment). For those with a negative block in whom care was started within days without a formal follow-up, baseline observations were carried forward (i.e. failed treatment). |
| Prolonged relief from a negative MBB. | 1- and 3-month follow-ups recorded at set times in those who experienced > 3 months relief. In those who experienced > 1-month but < 3-months relief, 1-month follow-up recorded at set time and 3-month data recorded when pain returned, before treatment was instituted (i.e. failed treatment). |
| Prolonged relief from a positive MBB lasting > 3 months | 1- and 3-month follow-ups recorded at set times. |
| Prolonged relief from a positive MBB lasting > 1 month but < 3 months | 1-month follow-up recorded 1-month after MBB. 3-month follow-up recorded 3 months after RFA. |
| Relief after RFA lasting 1, but not 3 months. | 1-month follow-up recorded 1-month after RFA. 3-month follow-up recorded at 3 months in those who did not receive interim care, or after return of pain but before treatment was instituted in those received interim care (i.e. failed treatment). |

MBB- medial branch block