1) Data are mean values (SD), n (%) or n. None of the variables revealed significant differences between groups.

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|  | **Sham Infusion – placebo conditioning** | **Sham Infusion - Expectancy** | **Sham Infusion –  nocebo conditioning** | **Natural History** |
| **(n=17)** | **(n=21)** | **(n=21)** | **(n=14)** |
| **Demographic characteristics** | | | | |
| *Age (years)* | 47.29 (12.17) | 55.48 (10.72) | 49.35 ( 12.91) | 48.07 (8.49) |
| *Sex: Male* | 10 (13.70%) | 5 (6.85%) | 11 (15.07%) | 6 (8.22%) |
| *Sex: Female* | 7 (9.59%) | 16 (21.92%) | 10 (13.70%) | 8 (10.96%) |
| **Clinical characteristics** | | | | |
| *Back* *pain duration in total (months)* | 121.12 (126.32) | 222.38 (143.33) | 164.38 (124.51) | 111.86 (92.05) |
| *Back* *pain duration of current intensity (months)* | 2.94 (0.24) | 2.95 (0.22) | 2.95 (0.21) | 2.93 (0.26) |
| *Disability through by back pain* | 4.24 (2.63) | 4.81 (1.43) | 5.45 (1.93) | 5.00 (1.71) |
| *Back pain intensity* *(average last 3 months)* | 5.65 (1.80) | 6.29 (1.34) | 6.00 (1.48) | 5.43 (1.74) |
| *Back pain intensity* *strongest pain last 3 months)* | 7.94 (1.14) | 8.05 (1.24) | 7.90 (1.25) | 8.14 (0.86) |
| **Pain characteristics (*****Milliampere mA)*** | | | | |
| *Day 1 Detection threshold* | 0.48 (0.39) | 0.62 (0.77) | 0.30 (0.14) | 0.37 (0.16) |
| *Day 1 & 8 Pain stimulus baseline* | 1.90 (1.90) | 1.74 (1.23) | 1.50 (1.70) | 1.70 (1.51) |
| *Day 1 Pain threshold* | 2.32 (1.79) | 2.00 (1.38) | 2.04 (2.14) | 2.74 (2.44) |
| *Day 1 Stimulus, condi.2)* | 0.62 (0.57) | Baseline stimulus | 3.14 (2.36) | Baseline stimulus |

2) Pain stimulus, condi. = Conditional pain stimulus during phase of conditioning; individual pain stimuli were reduced to detection threshold level in Placebo conditioning and to Pain threshold level in nocebo conditioning. The non-conditional group and the NH received their original pain stimulus (baseline).