

Table 1 Baseline demographic, clinical and pain characteristics <sup>1)</sup>

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

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

<sup>2)</sup> 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).