**Table S2**. Studies considered highest quality in reviews that also characterized heavy lifting exposures

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Main supporting studies** | Bolm-Audorff 2000 | Lievense 2001 | Jensen 2006/ 2008  |
| Causal relationship, long-term and intensive heavy lifting | Moderate evidence, frequent lifting of weights ≥25 kg | Moderate to strong evidence, 10-20 years of lifting 10-25 kg |
| Coggon 1998 | X | X | X |
| Croft 1992b | X | X | X |
| Elsner 1995\* | X |  |  |
| Flugsrud 2002 |  |  | X |
| Jacobsson 1987 | X | X |  |
| Vingard 1991b  | X | X | X |
| Vingard 1997b |  | X |  |
| Yoshimura 2000 |  | X |  |
| \*We disagree with the assessment of Elsner et al., 1995 as “high quality”, because the authors evaluated exposure with a series of “yes or no” questions that were not previously validated. |