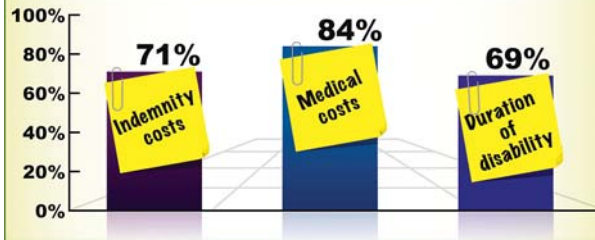


The High Costs of Recurring Low Back Injury

A study published in *Spine* suggests that patients with a recurring low back injury (LBI) **accrue the vast percentage of medical costs, indemnity costs (compensated work loss) and overall duration of disability after the initial episode.** According to the investigators, such recurrences “contribute substantially to the total burden of work-related nonspecific LBI, through both additional care seeking and work disability,” which emphasizes the importance of secondary prevention efforts.



SOURCE: Wasiak R, Kim JY, Pransky G. Work disability and costs caused by recurrence of low back pain: longer and more costly than in first episodes. *Spine* 2006;31(2):219-25.