Table 2 Rationale for exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria	Rationale
Pregnancy (real or suspected) and breast-feeding	These patients have a risk of some alteration due to the mechanical and thermal energy release
Subjects who received physical therapy treatments in the 15 days preceding T1	These treatments could influence the results of the study
Subjects treated with cortisone in the month preceding T1	This treatment could influence the results of the study
Subjects implanted with pacemakers and ICDs (implantable cardioverter defibrillators); more generally, users of active implantable devices	In order to prevent possible electromagnetic interference between SMATH® and the implantable device, which is potentially dangerous for the patient (cautelative criteria)
Subjects with medullar stimulators and infusion pumps with recent or ongoing DVT (deep venous thrombosis)	To prevent possible electromagnetic and mechanical interference between SMATH® and the implantable device, which is potentially dangerous for the patient (cautelative criteria)
Subjects with spine stabilization devices	These treatments could influence the results of the study
Subjects with serious osteoporosis associated with bone fracture risk	Mechanical energy release on these patients could increase bone fracture risk
Subjects with logically soft or acute infection of bone tissues	Thermal and mechanical energy release could increase infection diffusion
Subjects with acute cardiovascular disease	These patients need to be submitted to specific clinical evaluation before being treated for LBP
Subjects with neoplastic disease	These patients need to be submitted to specific clinical evaluation before being treated for LBP
Subjects with systemic rheumatic disease	These patients need to be submitted to specific clinical evaluation before being treated for LBP.
Subjects with traumatic spinal episodes the 3 months preceding T1	Mechanical energy release on these patients could be dangerous.