CONTENT

Chapter 1  General introduction  7

PART 1  DIAGNOSTIC STUDY
Chapter 2  Systematic review of patient history and physical examination for diagnosing facet joint pain in patients with low back pain  23

PART 2  COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF RADIOFREQUENCY DENERVATION
Chapter 3  Radiofrequency denervation for chronic low back pain (review)  43
Chapter 4  Cost-effectiveness of minimal interventional procedures for chronic mechanical low back pain: design of four randomised controlled trials with an economic evaluation  79
Chapter 5  Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of radiofrequency denervation for chronic low back pain originating from the sacroiliac joints  97
Chapter 6  Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of radiofrequency denervation for chronic low back pain originating from a combination of the facet joints, sacroiliac joints and/or discs  123
Chapter 7  Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of radiofrequency denervation for chronic low back pain originating from the facet joints  153

PART 3  GENERALIZABILITY OF RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS
Chapter 8  Do randomised controlled trials reflect clinical practice?
Comparing the course of low back pain symptoms in randomised study groups to observational study groups  187

Chapter 9  General discussion  210

Summary | English  229
Samenvatting | Nederlands  237
Dankwoord | Acknowledgements  241
List of publications  241
About the author  243