#### **KEY POINTS**

* In a large international survey, most low back pain was accompanied by current or recent pain at other anatomical sites.
* In comparison with pain that was localised entirely to the low back, that which was associated with pain elsewhere was more troublesome and persistent, and differed importantly in its associations with risk factors.
* After adjustment for other risk factors, localised and non-localised LBP also differed in their relative prevalence by occupational group.
* Future epidemiological studies should distinguish where possible between pain that is limited to the low back, and that which occurs in association with pain at other anatomical sites.