

INFORMED CONSENT

Dear Patient,

Every type of health care is associated with some risk of a potential problem. This includes chiropractic health care. We want you to be informed about potential problems associated with chiropractic health care before consenting to treatment. This is called "informed consent".

Chiropractic adjustments are the moving of bones with the doctor's hands or with the use of a machine. Frequently, adjustments create a "pop" or "click" sound/sensation in the area being treated. In this office we use trained staff personnel to assist the doctor with portions of your consultation, examination, x-ray taking, physical therapy application, traction, massage therapy, exercise instruction, etc.

Stroke: Stroke is the most serious problem associated with chiropractic adjustments. Stroke means that a portion of the brain does not receive enough oxygen from the brain stem. The results can be temporary or permanent dysfunction of the brain, with a very rare complication of death. Chiropractic adjustments have been associated with strokes that arise from the vertebral artery only; this is because the vertebral artery is actually found inside the neck vertebrae. The most recent studies (Journal of the CCA Vol. 37 No. 2, June 2, 1993) estimate that the incidence of this type of stroke is 1 per every 3,000,000 upper neck adjustments. This means that the average chiropractor would have to be in practice for hundreds of years before they would statistically be associated with a single patient stroke.

Disc Herniation: Disc herniations that create pressure on the spinal nerve or on the spinal cord are frequently successfully treated by chiropractors and chiropractic adjustments, traction, etc. This includes disc hernations in both the neck and the back. Yet occasionally chiropractic treatment (adjustments, traction, etc.) will aggravate the problem. These problems occur so rarely, that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability.

Soft Tissue Injury: Soft tissues primarily refer to muscles and ligaments. Muscles move the bones and ligaments limit the amount of joint movement. Rarely will chiropractic adjustments, traction, massage therapy, etc., tear some muscle or ligament fibers. If this does occur the result is a temporary increase in pain and necessary treatments for resolution, but there are no long term effects for the patient. These problems occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability.

Rib Fracture: The ribs are found only in the thoracic spine or middle back. They extend from your back to your front chest area. Rarely will chiropractic adjustments "crack" or fracture a rib bone. This occurs only on patients who have weakened bones from such things as osteoporosis. Osteoporosis can be noted on your x-rays. We adjust all patients very carefully, especially those who have osteoporosis on their x-rays. These problems occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability.

Physical Therapy Burns: Some of the machines we use generate heat. We also use both heat and ice, and recommend them for home care on occasion. Everyone's skin has different sensitivity to these modalities, and rarely, either heat or ice can burn or irritate the skin. If a burn occurs the result is a temporary increase in skin pain. In extreme cases, some blistering of the skin may occur. These problems occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability.

Soreness: It is common for chiropractic adjustments, traction, massage therapy, exercise, etc., to result in a temporary increase in soreness in the region being treated. This is nearly always a temporary symptom that occurs while your body is undergoing therapeutic change. It is not dangerous, but please tell your doctor about it.

Other Problems: There may be other problems or complications that might arise from chiropractic treatment, other than those noted above. These other problems or complications occur so rarely that it is impossible to anticipate and/or explain them all in advance of treatment.

Chiropractic is a system of health care delivery, and therefore, as with any healthcare delivery system, we cannot promise a cure for any symptom, disease or condition as a result of treatment in this clinic. We will always give you our best care, and if the results are not acceptable, we will refer you to another provider who we feel will assist your situation. If you have any questions on the above, please ask your doctor. When you have a full understanding, please sign and date below.

Patient Name Printed

Date

Patient Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature for Minor Patient

Authorized Provider Representative