

Mark F. Sutton, DC
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 complications associated with chiropractic health care before consenting to treatment.

Chiropractic adjustments are the restoration of normal joint motion by use of 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 may use trained staff personnel to assist the doctor with portions of your consultation, examination, massage therapy, exercise instruction, etc.. Occasionally when your doctor is unavailable, another clinic will treat you on that day.

Stroke: Stroke is the most serious problem that may be associated with chiropractic adjustments. Stroke means that a portion of the brain does not receive enough oxygen from the blood stream. The result can be temporary or permanent dysfunction of the brain, with a very rare complication of death. Chiropractic adjustments associated with strokes arise from the vertebral artery only; this is because the vertebral artery is actually found inside the neck vertebrae. The adjustment that is associated with vertebral artery stroke is called the "extension-rotation-thrust atlas adjustment". We do not do this type of adjustments on patients. Other type of neck adjustments may be potentially related to vertebral artery strokes, but it is not known for certain. Recent studies (Journal of the CCA, Vol.37 No.2 June 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 cord or a spinal nerve are frequently successfully treated by chiropractors with chiropractic adjustments, traction, etc.. This includes herniations in both the neck and the back. It has been suggested that occasionally chiropractic adjustments may aggravate the problem and in extreme cases result in surgical intervention. 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 bones and ligaments limit joint movement. Rarely a chiropractic adjustment, traction, massage therapy, etc., may tear some muscle or ligament fibers. The result is temporary increase in pain and necessary treatments for resolution, but there are rarely any long term effects to the patient. These problems occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability.

Rib Fractures: The ribs are found only in the thoracic spine or middle back. They extend from your back to your chest area. Rarely a chiropractic adjustment will crack a rib bone, and this is referred to as a fracture. This may occur with patients who have weakened bones from such things as osteoporosis. We adjust all patients very carefully, and especially those who may have weakened bones or osteoporosis. These problems occur so rarely that there is 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, especially in the area of the region being treated. This is nearly always a temporary symptom that occurs while your body is undergoing a therapeutic change. It is not dangerous but please tell your doctor about it.

Other Problems: There may be other problems or complications that may arise from chiropractic treatment other than those mentioned above. These problems or complications occur so rarely that it is not possible to anticipate and/or explain them all in advance of treatment.

Chiropractic is a system of health care delivery, and therefore, as with any health care delivery system, we cannot promise a cure for any symptom, disease or condition as a result from treatment in this clinic. We will always give our best care, and if results are not acceptable, we will refer you to another provider whom we feel will best 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.

I have received a copy of the financial policy and the privacy practices.

Patient's Name

Today's Date

Patient's Signature

Parent/Guardian for Minor