



Informed Consent

Dear Patient,

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

Chiropractic adjustments are the moving of the bones with the doctor's hands or activator. Frequently, adjustments create a "popping" or "clicking" sound/sensation in the area being treated.

In this office, we use trained personnel to assist the doctor with portions of your consultation, examinations, the taking of x-rays, physical therapy application, traction, massage therapy, exercise instruction, etc. Occasionally, when your doctor is unavailable, another clinic doctor will treat you that day.

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 blood stream. The results can be temporary or permanent dysfunctions 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 adjustment that is related to the vertebral artery stroke is called the "extension-rotation-thrust atlas adjustment." **We do not perform this type of adjustment on patients!** Other types of neck adjustments may be related to vertebral artery strokes, but no one is certain. The most recent studies (Journal of the CCA, Vol.37-No.2, June 1993) estimate that the incident of this type of stroke is 1 in every 3,000,000 upper neck adjustments. This means the average chiropractor would have to be in practice for hundreds of years before they would statistically be associated with a single stroke patient.

Disc Herniations: Disc herniations that create pressure on the spinal nerve or on the spinal cord are frequently and successfully treated by chiropractors and chiropractic adjustments. This includes both neck and back. Yet, occasionally, chiropractic treatment will aggravate the problem, and if the disc is in the weakened condition, surgery may be indicated. These problems occur so rarely that there are no 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 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 statistics to quantify their probability.

Rib Fractures: The ribs are only found in the thoracic or middle back. They extend from your back to your front chest area. Rarely, a chiropractic adjustment will crack a bone, which is referred to as a fracture. 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 statistics to quantify their probability.

Soreness: It is common for chiropractic adjustments, traction, massage therapy, exercise, etc. to result in temporary soreness in the region being treated. This is nearly always a temporary symptom that can occur 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 may arise from chiropractic care other than those noted above. However, these other problems or complications occur so rarely, that it is not possible to anticipate and/or explain them all in advance of treatment.

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

Printed Name

Authorized Provider Representative

Signature

Date

Date