

Does *Neck Manipulation* Cause Stroke?

Media outlets have highlighted a published estimate that 1 in 5.7 million chiropractic patients suffers a stroke in the days following treatment; and some individuals question if neck manipulation could be the cause.

Research *Answers* the *Question*

Six major studies have answered this question after examining the relationship of stroke and neck manipulation.

1

DATA
ALL PUBLISHED DATA

CONCLUSION
"No excess risk of stroke for chiropractic manipulation compared to primary (MD) care." (1)

2

DATA
39 MILLION PATIENTS

CONCLUSION
"No significant association between stroke and chiropractic visits. Manipulation is an unlikely cause of stroke." (2)

3

DATA
100 MILLION PERSON YEARS

CONCLUSION
"No evidence of excess risk of stroke associated chiropractic care compared to primary care." (3)

4

DATA
15,523 CASES

CONCLUSION
"No excess risk of stroke after chiropractic care." (4)

5

DATA
PATIENTS 65 AND OLDER

CONCLUSION
"Among [patients] aged 65 and older who received cervical spinal manipulation, the risk of cervical artery dissection is no greater." (5)

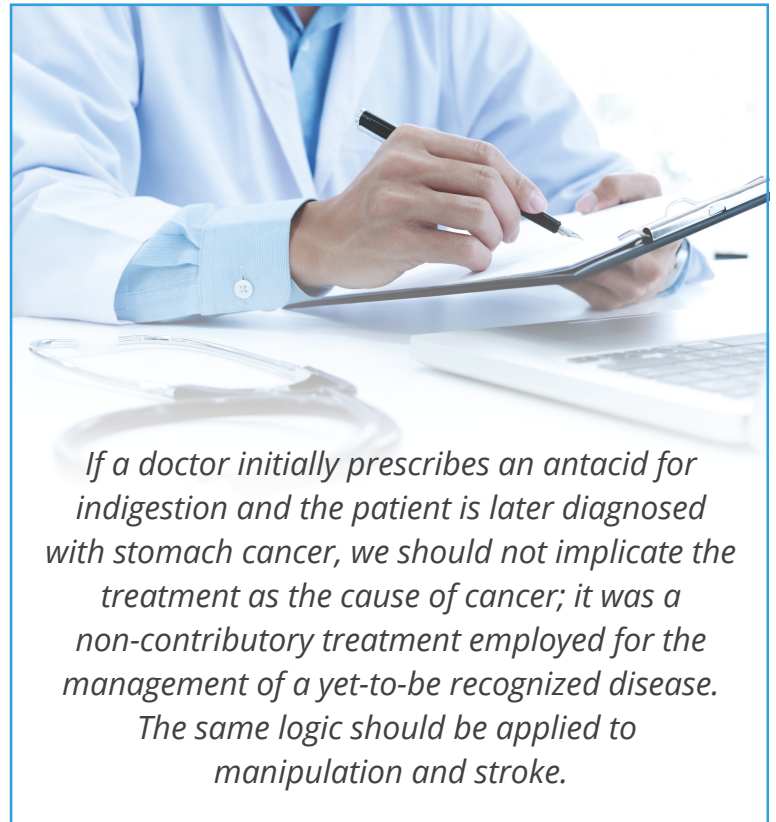
6

DATA
40 MILLION PATIENTS

CONCLUSION
"The association between cervical spinal manipulation and cervical artery dissection is NOT causal in nature." (6)

Problems Trigger **Doctor Visits,** Not Vice Versa

Each study has concluded that chiropractic spinal manipulation does not cause stroke, however, patients with symptoms of an impending stroke have a higher likelihood to seek care from a variety of providers, including chiropractors. Chiropractic or medical treatment is not the cause of the stroke, but rather a non-contributory mid-point of a developing crisis.



If a doctor initially prescribes an antacid for indigestion and the patient is later diagnosed with stomach cancer, we should not implicate the treatment as the cause of cancer; it was a non-contributory treatment employed for the management of a yet-to-be recognized disease. The same logic should be applied to manipulation and stroke.

76% Lower

One recent study concluded: *"it is unlikely that chiropractic care is a significant cause of injury. In fact, risk of injury was 76% lower among subjects with a chiropractic office visit than those who saw a primary care physician."* (7)

Chiropractic Care Has An **Exceptional** Safety Record

Chiropractic manipulation has an exceptional record of safety, but like all treatments, it is not without risk. Patients should discuss any concerns with their provider. Following careful assessment, you and your chiropractor can determine the best and safest mode of care.

References

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