

Informed Consent to Chiropractic Treatment

The nature of chiropractic treatment: The doctor will use his/her hands or a mechanical device in order to move your joints. You may feel a “click” or “pop, such as the noise when a knuckle is “cracked”, and you may feel movement of the joint. Various ancillary procedures, such as hot or cold packs, electric muscle stimulation, therapeutic ultrasound, tractions, passive and active exercise or hydrotherapy may also be used.

Possible Risks: As with any health care procedure, complications are rare but possible following a chiropractic manipulation. Complications could include fractures of bone, muscular strain, ligamentous sprain, dislocations of joints, or injury to intervertebral discs, nerves or spinal cord. Cervical artery dissections are rare events and CM has only been reported as being associated with CAD in 6% to 9% of cases. (A Canadian Province of Ontario 9-year study found that patients who went to a chiropractor for neck problems were no more likely to have a stroke following their neck treatment than patients who went to their primary care physician) A minority of patients may notice stiffness or soreness after the first few days of treatment. The ancillary procedures could produce skin irritations, burns or minor complications.

Probability of risks occurring: The risks of complications due to chiropractic treatment have been described as “rare”, about as often as complications are seen from the taking of single aspirin tablet. Church E., Sieg E., Zalatimo O., et al. in their 2016 study found no evidence for a causal link between chiropractic care and CAD (cerebrovascular injury or stroke).

Other treatment options which could be considered may include:

- Over-the-counter analgesic. The risks of these medications include irritation to stomach, liver and kidneys, and other side effects in a significant number of cases.
- Medical care, typically anti-inflammatory drugs, tranquilizers, and analgesics. Risk of these drugs include gastrointestinal bleeding, kidney and liver disease as well as other undesirable side effects and patient dependence in a significant number of cases.
- Hospitalization in conjunction with medical care adds risk of exposure to virulent communicable disease in a significant number of cases.
- Surgery in conjunction with medical care adds risks of infection and adverse reaction to anesthesia, as well as an extended convalescent period in significant number of cases.

Risks of remaining untreated: Delay of treatment allows formation of adhesions, scar tissue and other degenerative changes. These changes can further reduce skeletal mobility, and induce chronic pain cycles. It is quite probable that delay of treatment will complicate the condition and make future rehabilitation more difficult.

Possible Risks: I have had the following possible risk of my case explained to me. I have read the explanation above of chiropractic treatment. I have had the opportunity to have any questions answered to my satisfaction. I have fully evaluated the risks and benefits of undergoing treatment. I have freely decided to undergo the recommended treatment and hereby give my full consent to treatment.

Patient: _____
Print Name

Signature

Date

Witness: _____

I have reviewed the risks of my treatment, alternative forms of treatment as well as remaining untreated with the patient. I have also afforded the patient the opportunity to ask any questions and have answered them to their satisfactions.

Doctor: _____

Date: _____