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

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

1. **100 Million Person Years**
   - "No evidence of excess risk of stroke associated chiropractic care compared to primary care." (1)

2. **39 Million Patients**
   - "No significant association between stroke and chiropractic visits. Manipulation is an unlikely cause of stroke." (2)

3. **All Published Data**
   - "No causal link between chiropractic manipulation and Cervical Artery Dissection (stroke)." (3)

4. **15,523 Cases**
   - "No excess risk of stroke after chiropractic care." (4)

More info on reverse side >
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.

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.” (5)

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