

INFORMED CONSENT

Chiropractic, as well as other types of health care, is associated with potential risks in the delivery of treatment. While chiropractic treatment is remarkable safe, you need to be informed of the potential risks related to your care. This will allow you to be fully informed when consenting to treatment prior to initiating care.

Chiropractic offices use trained personnel to assist with portions of your consultation, examination, X-rays, physical therapy applications, exercise instruction, etc. Occasionally, when your chiropractor is unavailable, another qualified Doctor of Chiropractic may treat you.

Specific Risk Possibilities Associated with Chiropractic Care:

Stroke – Stroke is the most serious complication of chiropractic treatment. It is, on rare occasions, due to injury of the vertebral artery caused by a cervical spine adjustment or manipulation. If it occurs, it may cause temporary or permanent brain dysfunction. On extremely rare occasions, death occurs. The vertebral arteries, which supply the brain with blood, are located within the bones of the cervical spine. Therefore, cervical spine treatment poses a small risk. The chances of this happening are estimated at 1 in 400,000 treatments to 1 in 5.8 million treatments (CMAJ 2001, Oct 2; 165 (7):905-6). The annual incidence of a spontaneous stroke is estimated at 1 to 1.5 per 100,000 (NEJM, 1994; 330:339-397). This means that the chances of a spontaneous stroke are much higher than the chance of a stroke following a chiropractic adjustment. The results of a retrospective study conducted by Haldeman S, et.al., suggested that stroke should be considered a random and unpredictable complication of any neck movement, including cervical manipulation (J. Neurol, 2002, Aug: 249(8): 1098-104).

Soreness – Chiropractic adjustments and physical therapy procedures may be accompanied by post-treatment soreness. This is the normal and acceptable response to chiropractic care. While it is not generally dangerous, please advise you Doctor of Chiropractic if you experience any soreness or discomfort.

Soft Tissue Injury – Occasionally, chiropractic treatment may aggravate a disc injury. It may also cause other minor joint, ligament, tendon or soft tissue injury.

Rib Injury – Manual adjustments to the thoracic spine, in rare cases, may cause rib injury or fracture. Precautions, such as pre-adjustment X-rays, are taken for cases considered at risk. Treatment is performed carefully to minimize such risk.

Physical Therapy Burns – Heat generated from physical therapy modalities may cause minor burns to the skin. These are rare but should be reported to your Doctor of Chiropractic or staff if they occur.

Other Problems – There are occasionally other types of side effects associated with chiropractic care. While these are rare, they should be reported to your Doctor of Chiropractic promptly.

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, condition or disease as a result of treatment in this office. An attempt to provide the very best care is our goal. If the results are not acceptable, we will refer you to another provider.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please ask your Doctor of Chiropractic. When you fully understand the above information, please print your name, sign and date below. This will signify informed consent for treatment.

CONSENT TO TREAT A MINOR:

Having carefully read the above, I hereby give my informed consent to have the doctor and/or staff of this clinic examine, X-ray and administer chiropractic care to my child as deemed necessary in my presence or in my absence.

Patient's Name Printed _____

Today's Date _____

Patient's Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature for Minor

Provider Signature

Date