

Dear

Over the years, there has been a growing perception, amplified by the media, about a possible connection between chiropractic manipulation and stroke. In addition, two years ago there was a high-profile case in Canada where manipulation was alleged to have caused a stroke.

Rather than ignore the matter, the chiropractic profession sought to get to the root of the issue through comprehensive research. The culmination of the data and findings of this research has now been released in a new monograph.

As a fellow health care professional, I thought you'd appreciate a copy of this monograph. So, I've enclosed *Current Concepts in Spinal Manipulation and Cervical Arterial Incidents* for your perusal.

This monograph's conclusion is revealing. It found negligible evidence to support a causal relationship between cervical spinal manipulation and vertebral artery dissection (VAD). It also noted the incidence of cerebrovascular syndrome following cervical manipulation is extremely rare, ranging from 1 in 400,000 to 1 in 5.8 million.

The monograph further points out that a dissection in progress is largely asymptomatic. The only "symptoms" are typically unilateral neck pain and occasionally a headache that's "different" in nature from previous headaches. However, because people often go to chiropractors for relief of symptoms, particularly neck pain and headache, the *associative* relationship between cervical spinal manipulation and VAD had become an issue until the research revealed the facts.

[Use the following paragraph only with neurologists]

Finally, some neurologists mistakenly believe that chiropractic manipulation preceding stroke is fairly common. However, a recent study by Haldeman, et. al., presents a compelling explanation for this misconception. Haldeman discovered that what can happen is that one chiropractor sees a patient who is experiencing VAD. Later, several different neurologists treat that same patient. Each neurologist believes a chiropractor was somehow involved. As a result, neurologists as a group tend to believe that more chiropractors treat patients before a stroke than they actually do.

I hope the research and findings included in this document are of benefit to you. If you would like to discuss the monograph further, I would welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Sincerely,

Enclosure