



Dr. John Madlener, M.D.
Dr. Richard Helton D.C.
903 Jordan Blass Dr. Suite 102
Melbourne, FL 32940
P: (321)751-5351 F: (321)751-5370

INFORMED CONSENT

Dear Patient,

Every type of health care is associated with some risk of potential problem. This includes chiropractic health care. Should we accept your case, although extremely rare, we want you to be informed about potential problems with chiropractic health care before consenting to treatment. This is called informed consent. Chiropractic has only one goal. It is important that each patient understand both the objective and the methods that will be used to attain it. This is to prevent any confusion or disappointment.

MANIPULATION: Chiropractic manipulation is the moving of bones with the doctor's hands or with the use of a device. Frequently manipulation creates a "pop" or "click" sound/sensation in the area being treated. A manipulation is the specific application of gentle forces to facilitate the body's correction of vertebral fixation. In the office we use trained staff and personnel to assist the doctor with portions of your x-ray taking, exercise instructions, etc. more than one doctor in our clinic may also treat you.

VERTEBRAL FIXATION: A misalignment of one or more of the 24 vertebrae in the spinal column which causes a joint and/or nerve inflammation sometimes complicated by a muscle spasm. We do not offer to treat any systemic disease or conditions not related to the musculoskeletal system. However, if during the course of a chiropractic examination or during treatment, we encounter non-chiropractic, medical, or unusual finding, we will inform you and we may transfer you to the appropriate healthcare provider in which case, we will do our best to help you in scheduling that appointment.

SOFT TISSUE INJURY: In the context of this office, soft tissue primarily refers to muscles, nerves, ligaments, tendons, and discs. Muscle moves bones and ligaments limit joint movement. Rarely a chiropractic manipulation may tear some muscle or ligament fibers. The result is a temporary increase in pain or discomfort and necessary treatment for resolution, but there are no long-term effects for the patient. These problems occur so rarely that we are not aware of any available statistics to quantify their probability.

RIB FRACTURES: The ribs are found only in the thoracic spine or middle back. They extend from your back to the front chest area. Rarely a chiropractic manipulation will crack a rib bone, and this is referred to as a fracture. This occurs only on patients that have weakened bones from such things as osteoporosis. Osteoporosis may be noted on your x-rays. We manipulate patients very carefully, altering our techniques for those patients who have known or diagnosed osteoporosis. These problems occur so rarely that we are not aware of any available statistics to quantify their probability.

SORENESS: It is not uncommon for chiropractic manipulations, exercise, etc. to result in a temporary increase in soreness in the region being treated especially at the beginning of your care. This is nearly always a temporary symptom that occurs while your body is undergoing therapeutic change. It is not dangerous, but please do tell your doctor about it.

STROKE: Stroke is extremely rare, but the most serious problem associated with chiropractic manipulation. Stroke means that a portion of the brain does not receive enough oxygen from the blood stream. The results can be temporary or permanent dysfunction of the brain, with a very rare complication of death. On very rare occasions chiropractic manipulation has been associated with strokes that arise for the vertebral artery only, because the vertebral artery is actually found inside the neck vertebrae. A thorough history and examination is performed on every patient to rule out any risk factors. In addition, techniques used in this office are specifically practiced to limit the risk of stroke on any and all patients having cervical manipulation. The most recent studies (Journal of the CCA, Vol. 37, No. 2, June, 1993) estimate that the incident of this type of stroke is 1 in every 3,000,000 upper neck adjustments. This means that an average chiropractor would have to be in practice for hundreds of years before they would statistically be associated with a single patient stroke.

If you have any questions on the above, please ask your doctor. When you have a full understanding of the statements, please sign and date below.

Patient's Name (Print) : _____ Today's Date: _____

Patient's Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____