

Are You Aware There is a Risk of **STROKE** with a **Chiropractic Adjustment?**

Who we are and why our awareness campaign is important

The Chiropractic Stroke Awareness Group was founded by survivors of strokes caused by chiropractic neck manipulation. We are a group of victims, hundreds of us, between the ages of 25-48. We never knew that a chiropractic manipulation could cause such devastating injuries as stroke, permanent disability or even death. Yes, many young people have died as a result of what they were told was a simple, safe cervical adjustment. And we all were told that chiropractic was safe and natural.

We are not anti-chiropractic. We are not trying to drive chiropractors out of business. But what we ARE trying to do is to hold chiropractors accountable for not telling people of the severe risks of a cervical adjustment. In this day and age, it is every person's right to know if there is a serious risk to anything. If there is a risk of stroke, permanent disability and even death, then we should know about it!!! We should have informed consent . . .

Chiropractors should sit down with their patients and discuss any and all risks of the procedure they are about to do and have the patient sign a consent form. The patient should be given a copy of this form which should also state the symptoms, signs of stroke, which might occur later. This way the patient would know to get to a hospital as quickly as possible. This is important because when a chiropractor does a neck adjustment - an artery can tear. The tear in the artery disrupts blood flow to the brain and a clot forms. The problem is, that strokes do not always occur immediately after the chiropractic adjustment. It could take days, weeks even months before the clot dislodges and causes a stroke.

If a patient had this consent form they would know to get to a hospital immediately if they have any symptoms such as dizziness, weakness, nauseous, loss of vision or if their speech became slurred. The hospital also would know to check for a dissected artery. This would help to begin stroke treatment immediately; which is critical to lessen the damage strokes cause and possibly even prevent permanent damage. Chiropractors are not medical doctors and are not trained to treat strokes. Their philosophies and techniques are NOT science based like it is for the medical community.

Before beginning any medical procedure, a medical doctor discloses the risks to you. You then have to sign a paper and you go home with that paper - so that you can refer to it later. Patients would be outraged if we weren't informed of the risks about medical procedures. So why shouldn't we know the risks when we go to a chiropractor, especially since the risks could be so severe? At least before beginning surgery, you already know that there is a risk, but who knows about the risks of a chiropractic adjustment? When you go to a chiropractor you just think that you will be cured of your aches & pains. You have no idea it could end up being a lot worse, especially since they advertise that it is safe. Many chiropractors think that the risk of stroke is rare. How do they know this, if a stroke can happen days, weeks even months after the adjustment that caused the artery to tear???

There are many chiropractors who agree with what we are saying and they want to do the responsible thing to raise the standards of their profession and have told us so. But unfortunately, there are many more chiropractors who refuse to speak up about the risks in fear of losing their customers. But they are HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS and they should be more responsible to us...their patients.

Our health and lives should matter more than their bottom line.

If you would like to help or support our efforts in any way,
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