



# Chiropractic Newsletter

## Discover Chiropractic

### The Safety of Chiropractic for Children

As chiropractic care for children continues to grow in popularity with parents, organizations with questionable interests continue to antagonize its safety and efficacy with baseless facts and half-truths.

A survey study examining the practice characteristics and pediatric care of chiropractors in the Boston area estimated that approximately 42,000 pediatric chiropractic visits were made in the Boston metropolitan area alone for 1998. If extrapolated for the rest of the United States and Canada, the number of chiropractic visits to children in one year would be enormous numbering in several million visits. Given this high utilization rate of pediatric chiropractic services in the United States and Canada, statistics should indicate a great number of morbidity and mortality. On the contrary, there exists little evidence of harm to children from chiropractic.

When the Canadian Pediatric Society published their position statement on,

“Chiropractic Care for Children: Controversies and Issues,” they addressed the issue of “The Safety of Chiropractic in Pediatrics.” Only one case report of vertebrobasilar occlusion in a seven-year-old was cited. It occurred following gymnastics injury and repeated chiropractic manipulations of the cervical spine. They further readily admit that, “Reports of other pediatric complications are few.”

#### In Perspective

It has been estimated that the annual cost of medication-related problems in



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the United States is approximately \$84.6 billion. The human impact of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (i.e., aspirin)–related gastrointestinal deaths have been estimated at rates higher than that found from deaths due to cervical cancer, asthma or malignant melanoma. Medication errors and adverse drug events are three times higher in children and substantially higher still for neonates. And the list could go on...

### **Chiropractic for Children is Here to Stay.**

Millions of children and their families will continue to experience the benefits of this safe and efficacious form of healthcare called chiropractic. Chiropractic researchers are looking into the salutary

effects of chiropractic care in children with subluxations and concomitant conditions like ADHD, asthma, colic and others. When two forms of healthcare meet at the crossroads of patient care, there will be controversy.

As a researcher, an honest and open dialog about the issues at hand so that all people are informed is all I ask. When group such as the Canadian Pediatric Society questions chiropractic care for children and yet overlooks the growing use of stimulants, antidepressants and antipsychotic drugs in children as young as 2-4 years of age and their deleterious effects, then I find their motives questionable.

—*Dr. Joel Alcantara, Research Director  
of the ICPA*

