

**MATHEWS FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC
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NOTICE OF INFORMED CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

EVERY TYPE OF HEALTH CARE IS ASSOCIATED WITH SOME RISK OF A POTENTIAL PROBLEM. THIS INCLUDES CHIROPRACTIC CARE. We at Mathews Family Chiropractic want you to be informed about the potential problems associated with Chiropractic care before consenting to treatment. This is called an informed consent to treatment agreement.

A subluxation is a term Chiropractors use to describe what occurs when one or more of the spinal joints has moved out of its normal alignment (position). This can occur through recent or remote trauma as well as the unusual positions we find ourselves throughout the day and the night. A subluxation has also been described as an incomplete dislocation of a joint and as such, it is not treated with drugs or surgery. Chiropractors treat these vertebral subluxations with a spinal manipulation otherwise known as an adjustment. Adjustments are usually made with the hands of the Chiropractor or they utilize a variety of small instruments. The adjustment is usually of gentle force in a specific direction to realign the misaligned segment. Frequently, adjustments create a popping or clicking sensation in the area being treated and are of no concern for alarm.

In this office we will use highly trained staff to assist the doctor with portions of your consultation, examination, x-ray, physiotherapy, traction, massage, exercise instruction, etc. Occasionally, when your doctor is unavailable another clinic doctor will treat you in his place.

Stroke: Stroke is the most serious problem associated with spinal adjustments, regardless of whether the care provider is a chiropractor or medical physician. A stroke occurs when a portion of the brain does not receive enough oxygen from the blood stream. The result can be temporary or permanent dysfunction of the brain, with a rarer complication being death. Spinal adjustments, to the cervical spine have only been associated with strokes that arise from the vertebral artery. The specific neck adjustment that is related to this complication is not administered in this office. The JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION Vol 37, no. 26 1993 estimated that the incidence of this complication occurs in 1 out of every 3,000,000 adjustments of the neck. This means the average chiropractor would have to practice over 100 years before they would statistically associated with a single patient stroke.

The most effective method of lessening the odds that a patient is prone to a stroke is a full screening of risk factors in the history, including medications taken. Also a family history of high blood pressure will be asked about and a specific exam procedure to assess blood flow to the brain will be done.

Disk herniation: Disk herniations that create pressure on the spinal cord or which cause facilitation/aggravation of the associated nerves are frequently treated successfully by chiropractors using adjustments, distraction and other therapies. This includes the neck and low back. Yet, occasionally chiropractic care can aggravate these problems. To help prevent this, patients are put through specific range of motion tests and procedures during the examination to see if any of these positions may aggravate the disk symptoms. Because of such attention to detail, these complications occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their likelihood of happening.

Soft tissue injury: Soft tissue injury refers to the muscles, tendons, and ligaments. Muscles move bones, tendons connect muscles to bone and ligaments connect bones together and they also limit joint movement, rarely, a chiropractic adjustment, tractions, massage, etc. may strain a muscle or sprain a ligament of a joint being adjusted. The result is a temporary increase in discomfort, which resolves readily with ongoing care. There are no long-term affects to the patient. Again this type of problem occurs so infrequently there is no data to determine the probability of it happening.

Rib fractures: The ribs are found attached to the thoracic spine in the middle back. They extend from the vertebrae in your back around to your breastbone (sternum) in the front. Again, rarely a chiropractic adjustment has the potential to break a rib. This occurs in patients who have weakened bones from such things as osteoporosis, prolonged steroid use, or any o the other bone weakening diseases. This can be partially determined by the patient history or better still by the use of x-ray. We adjust all of our patients carefully and especially those with weakened bones. We may also utilize a different technique to accommodate this particular state. This occurrence is also non-quantifiable.

Physical therapy: A variety of physical therapies may be utilized in your treatment, their associated risks will be addressed at a later time.

SORENESS IS NOT AN UNCOMMON RESULT FROM SPINAL OR EXTRASPINAL ADJUSTMENTS, DISTRACTION MASSAGE, EXERCISE, ETC. THIS IS ESPICALLY TRUE AFTER YOUR FIRST VISIT OR TWO. THIS IS NEARLY ALWAYS A TEMPORARY STMPOTM WHILE YOUR BODY IS UNDERGOINGA A THERAPEUTIC CHANGE TO THE TREATMENT THAT IS BEING PROVIDED. IT IS NOT DANGEROUS, BUT PLEASE VOICE ANY CONCERNS YOU'RE HAVING WITH THE DOCTOR OR A STAFF MEMBER.

Other problems: There may be other problems or complications that may arise during treatment other than those mentioned above. These occur so rarely and are usually based upon the uniqueness of an individual that they will be addressed on an as needed basis as they might occur.

CHIROPRACTIC IS A STSTEM OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY, AND THEREFORE, AS WITH ANY HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, WE CN NOT PROMISE A CURE FOR ALL SYMPTOMS, DISEASES, OR CONDITIONS AS A RESULT OF TREATMENT AT OUR CLINIC. WE WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE YOU THE BEST CARE THAT WE CAN DELIVER AND IF THE RESULTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE, WE WILL GLADLY DISCUSS OTHER TYPES OF TREATMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE BY OTHER CARE PROVIDERS. WE RECOGNIZE YOUR HEALTH IS OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE BY OTHER CARE PROVIDERS, WE RECOGNIZE YOUR HEALTH IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE AND WILL DO OUR BEST TO HELP YOU OR FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN.

If you have any questions on the above information, please ask the doctor to explain them more fully. When you have read and fully understand the above-mentioned information please sign and date this document and return it to the front desk or the doctor.

PATIENT'S NAME: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

PATIENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

WITNESS: _____ DATE: ____/____/____