



STP Title: Policy: 1995-06 Stroke

Proposed by: Liz Hoefer, DC

Date: 4/20/2020

Situation

1. Review Policy 1995-06 Stroke for relevance and accuracy.
2. Recommend editing the policy as listed below.

Target

1. CalChiro is fiscally responsible.
2. CalChiro keeps its policies current and reflective of intended practice.

Proposal:

In very rare cases, chiropractic spinal manipulation (or adjustment) of the cervical spine may result in ~~vertebral artery injury~~ vascular dissection. The most serious complication of ~~vertebral artery injury~~ vascular dissection is stroke. In a Cassidy study, Risk of Carotid Stroke after Chiropractic Care: A Population-Based Case-Crossover Study, from the Journal of Stroke and Cardiovascular Diseases VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4, P842-850, APRIL 01, 2017-they found there was no greater risk of stroke with chiropractic care compared to those that visited their PCP. Risk of Complications from Cervical Spine Manipulation, from LACC's 8th Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium - The Cervical Spine: Hyperflexion - Extension (Whiplash) Injuries, March 25-26, 1995, reports a risk rate of 5-10 per 10 million manipulations. For comparison purposes, the risks of other procedures are: 1) chymopapain injections for back and leg pain is 1400 deaths per million, 2) neurosurgery for neck pain is 15,000 cases of paralysis per million, 3) and angiograms is 10,000 strokes per million. Other activities which may precipitate stroke are neck positioning while under anesthesia for surgery and such simple procedures as having hair shampooed in a beauty salon. The National Chiropractic College Clinics in Chicago report no cases of stroke between the years 1965 to 1980--about 5 million cervical adjustments. Manipulation is also practiced by medical doctors and osteopaths. The literature shows a worldwide fatality rate from manipulation (across all professions) of one death every 4.2 years. At this time, there are no reliable tests (invasive or non-invasive) or criteria to determine just who may be at risk. However, a patient's present complaints, past history, and examination findings may indicate contraindications to manipulation. While a risk of injury is very low and the risk of serious injury even rarer, complications can occur as with any medical procedure.

Pulled from California Chiropractic Association (CalChiro) Position Statement:Stroke 1995

Financial Impact: None

Staff Impact: None

BOD ACTION: Approved