

## LIFETIME FAMILY WELLNESS

## Self-reported Non-musculoskeletal Responses to Chiropractic Intervention: A Multination Survey

Journal of Manipulative and Physiologic Therapeutics, June 2005, Volume 28, Issue 5, pages 294-302, Leboeuf-Yde et al.

This study was designed to replicate a previous study of non-musculoskeletal responses to chiropractic intervention and to establish whether such responses are influenced by the country of study, chiropractors' attitudes, and information to patients, patients' demographic profiles, and treatment regimens.

Information was obtained through questionnaires by chiropractors and patients of previous treatment from chiropractic practices in Canada, United States, Mexico, Hong-Kong, Japan, Australia, and South Africa. In all, 385 chiropractors collected valid data on 5607 patients.

Spinal manipulation with or without additional therapy was the intervention provided by chiropractors. Outcome measures included self-reported improved non-musculoskeletal reactions (allergy, asthma, breathing, circulation, digestion, hearing, heart function, ringing in the ears, sinus problems, urination, and others).

The results from the previous study were largely reproduced. Positive reactions were reported by 2% to 10% of all patients and by 3% to 27% of those who reported to have such problems. Most common were improved breathing (27%), digestion (26%), and circulation (21%).

Some variables were identified that somewhat influenced the outcome: patients informed that such reactions may occur (odds ratio [OR] 1.5), treatment to the upper cervical spine (OR 1.4), treatment to lower thoracic spine (OR 1.3), and female sex (OR 1.3). However, these had a very small "explanatory" value (pseudo R2 3%).

In conclusion a minority of patients with self-reported non-musculoskeletal symptoms report definite improvement after chiropractic care, and very few report definite worsening. Future studies should use stringent criteria to investigate a possible treatment effect and concentrate on specific diagnostic subgroups such as digestive problems and tinnitus.

\*\* Who do you know that could benefit from Chiropractic Care? \*\*

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