



Media Release

Chiropractic Research Symposium Identifies Challenges in Identification of Risk Factors for Vertebrobasilar Artery Dissection

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On October 21 and 22, the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College and the Consortium of Canadian Chiropractic Research Centres held the 6th Annual Conference on Advancements in Chiropractic. The multidisciplinary Conference was attended by some of the most renowned individuals who conduct research in chiropractic and related fields.

Presentations touched on a number of key issues in chiropractic and provided an important environment for discussion and learning. AWe want people to be aware that the chiropractic profession is working co-operatively and with other science disciplines to further what is known about all aspects of chiropractic treatment,@ says Dr. Silvano Mior, DC, FCCS(C), FICC, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the College. Alt is so important that the profession continue to evolve through research and that the public be aware of our continual efforts in these areas.@

A key presentation, made by Dr. Marion McGregor, DC, FCCS(C), M.Sc, discussed the challenges in determining the incident rate of Vertebrobasilar Artery Dissection in any population. An article discussed was, ARisk Factors and Precipitating Neck Movements Causing Vertebrobasilar Artery Dissection After Cervical Trauma and Neck Manipulation,@ published in SPINE, in April 1999. The study, which was conducted by Drs. Scott Haldeman, MD, PhD, FRCP(C), Frank Kohlbeck, DC, and Marion McGregor, and involved a detailed search of the literature covering more than 30 years. The researchers concluded that the incident rate of Vertebrobasilar Artery Dissection in association with Cervical Manipulation was very rare, (only 115 cases could be identified in all available literature published in English in more than 30 years). Further research indicated that overall, the published cases were not clearly attributable to manipulation due to a lack of detailed information about the treatment received.

Dr. McGregor explained that a primary difficulty in drawing inferences about rate from existing literature is that the size of the exposed population is not known. For a prospective study, in order to obtain a statistically reliable incident rate, three million manipulations would have to be observed. As a clinical study of such magnitude would be implausible, Dr. McGregor conducted a technical and elaborate telephone survey of chiropractors in the United States. Results of the study are consistent with previously reported incident rates of one per 1.23 million manipulations. The study is complete and will soon be submitted for publication.

Opened on September 18, 1945, the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College is a fully accredited, limited enrolment, self-supporting, professional education institution funded by the chiropractic profession in Canada. It receives no government funding and relies on membership, tuition and donations for support.

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