

For Immediate Release

**CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSION CALLS FOR STROKE CONSORTIUM TO
SUBSTANTIATE ITS DATA ON NECK ADJUSTMENT**

TORONTO, February 13, 2002 – The Canadian Chiropractic Association (CCA) today called on members of the Canadian Stroke Consortium to substantiate its data on the incidence of adverse effects associated with neck adjustment which the Consortium displayed in a poster at a recent international stroke conference.

“The Consortium continues to release alarmist data from an incomplete and unpublished survey without opening itself to the standard practice of peer evaluation of its research design and conclusions,” said CCA spokesperson, Dr. Stan Gorchynski. “There is good reason to question how the Consortium is arriving at its projected numbers since they are wildly out of line with the published research on the subject.”

The CCA noted two very recent studies one published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* and the other in the medical journal *Stroke* within the past year – both of which confirm that serious adverse affects such as stroke or stroke-like symptoms are very rare.¹ Review of the published studies to date indicate an estimate of somewhere between one and two cases per million adjustments and one in 5.6 million neck adjustments.

“Patient safety always comes first,” said CCA president, Dr. Mireille Duranleau. “The overwhelming majority of credible published studies to date support spinal adjustive therapy as practised by chiropractors to be safe, effective, drug-free and non-invasive health care.”²

The CCA cautions the public and the medical community that the Consortium’s data is gathered from an incomplete survey based only on a questionnaire with no methodology for confirming whether the cases of stroke reported are in fact associated with neck adjustment.

¹ Arterial dissections following cervical manipulation: the chiropractic experience, Haldeman S, Carey P, Townsend M, Papadopoulos C, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Vol 165, No 7, 905-906, 2001.

Chiropractic manipulation and stroke: a population-based case-control study, Rothwell DM, Bondy SJ, Williams JJ, *Stroke*, May 2001.

² Appendix of research references available.

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There are a great many risk factors for stroke including blood clotting problems, hypertension, smoking, high cholesterol, use of birth control pills, heart disease, trauma, most sports and even roller coaster rides or coughing, said the CCA. A patient's health history and activities have to be very carefully examined in order to determine the most probable cause of a stroke.

"Conjecture is not research and it is a mistake to publicize uncorroborated data that misleads the public and health professionals," said Gorchynski. "This data is beginning to cause unnecessary confusion."

The CCA advised that it is investigating potential breaches in ethical conduct related to the Consortium's activities that may be brought to the attention of the provincial Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, the regulatory bodies for the medical profession.

"Collaboration, not confrontation, is in the public's best interest," said Duranleau. "The chiropractic profession welcomes all soundly designed research studies that are published and peer-reviewed so that the credibility of their methodology and design can be evaluated. We are calling on the Stroke Consortium to be measured by the same standards. Posters, commentaries and news releases do not qualify."

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For more information or to obtain a copy of the Appendix of Research References, please contact: Jim Duncan, Executive Director, Canadian Chiropractic Association (416) 781-5656.