



WEBER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE, S.C.
Providing Choices in Complementary Health Care
Gentle Chiropractic Therapy – Acupuncture – Rehabilitation –
Low Level Laser – Nutrition – Medical Weight Loss - Kinesiotaping



The Value of Chiropractic Care

Once again, in a medical journal called “*Spine*”, the cost effectiveness of chiropractic care for the management of lower back pain was demonstrated in two distinct ways. One study was “*Early Predictors of Lumbar Spine Surgery after Occupational Back Injury*” in the state of Washington. In a sample of 1,885 workers, it was found that if the worker saw a surgeon first for an injury, 42.7% of those workers ended up with surgery versus only 1.5% of those workers who saw a chiropractor first. Applying statistical analysis to the results indicated an excellent ability to discriminate between workers who would versus would not have surgery, meaning the study was very accurate in its findings. (Spine 2012 Dec 12) If you consider the cost of back surgery for the unfortunate 41.2% of workers who had surgery, the cost savings if chiropractors were the first doctor seen would be in the millions of dollars. If you expand that idea to the rest of health care in the United States, where back pain is the number one reason for consulting a doctor, we all could be paying lower premiums for health insurance instead of facing yearly premium increases.

Another related study, again in the state of Washington, investigated factors that led to early use of MRI with acute occupational low back pain. Initial visits with a surgeon were associated with a 78% greater likelihood of receiving an early MRI than if the first visit was with a chiropractor or primary care physician. It concludes “Early MRI may lead to greater interventions, potentially poorer outcomes and increased health care expenditures.” (Spine 2012 Sep 1;37(19); 1708-18)

So often, I get the impression that much of the population, and I’m preaching to the choir here, just thinks of chiropractors as the treatment of last resort. Back pain can be a scary experience and people think they need to “really find out” what’s causing the pain. These studies demonstrate that statistically, the thinking about treatment for back pain needs to be significantly changed. In our office, there are those situations that I recommend a patient to see a surgeon. There have been many more situations when we have been able to help a patient who has not been helped through all of the MRI’s, therapy and injections. Their comments are usually “Why didn’t I do this a long time ago?”

***Again, thank you for being our patient!
We appreciate you and look forward to serving you.***

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