

## NEWS RELEASE



### **ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics States Article in *Pediatrics* on Spinal Manipulations and Adverse Reactions is Not an Accurate and Balanced Review**

ARLINGTON, VA, January 29, 2007: The January 1, 2007 issue of *Pediatrics* (Vol.119, No.1) includes an article titled "Adverse Events Associated with Pediatric Spinal Manipulation: A Systematic Review." The ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics states that authors Vohra et al have not presented an "accurate and balanced" assessment. This review fails to consider the education and qualifications of the practitioner performing the manipulations, including differentiation of student practitioners or individuals with unspecified qualifications. They also do not differentiate gross spinal manipulation from the specificity of the chiropractic adjustment or certain osteopathic techniques when reporting adverse events.

After a comprehensive search of the literature (13,916 articles), the authors found 14 reports of adverse events. In the 14 literature citations, only eight indicated that the manipulations were performed by a chiropractor. Of nine reported serious adverse events, five were associated with chiropractors and were identified in case reports spanning from 1959 to 1992. Since 1992, according to the authors, no serious adverse events have been reported related to spinal manipulations performed specifically by chiropractors.

In 1995 Terrett (Terrett AGJ. Misuse of the literature by medical authors in discussing spinal manipulative therapy injury. *J Manipulative Physiol Ther.*1995;18:pp203-210) reported numerous cases in the literature where practitioners responsible for the injuries induced by manipulation of the cervical spine were inaccurately identified as chiropractors. He suggested that future discussions regarding the safety of spinal manipulations be based on a correct description of the practitioner. Vohra and colleagues' failure to reflect the professional qualifications of each practitioner leaves a question in the mind of the discerning reader about the validity of their conclusions.

If the authors intended their study to be truly objective and balanced they should have included the study by Beidermann (Biedermann H. Kinematic imbalances due to suboccipital strain in newborns, *J Manual Medicine* 1992, Vol. 6, 151-156) of  $\pm 600$  cases of children treated with specific spinal manipulation for KISS syndrome. Biedermann reports two cases of children who experienced adverse reactions after treatment but relates that there was no demonstrable negative effect on the outcome of these cases. According to Biedermann "In the hands of the experienced the risk is minimal; we have not yet encountered any serious complications."

The Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics, a specialty group of the International Chiropractors Association, is cognizant of the need for all practitioners to perform a proper history, examination and treatment. In certain cases, referral and co-management are vital to insure safe and effective care. For the authors of this paper to warn patients of risks associated with spinal manipulation based on these few cases is a disservice to licensed practitioners qualified to perform spinal manipulations, children who are being helped with chiropractic care, and parents who may seek CAM therapies for their children. Misrepresentation inappropriately places a child's response to treatment under a microscope without considering the body's normal physiologic responses while healing.

To further chiropractic pediatric education, the ICA Pediatrics Council has developed a 360-hour, 3-year postgraduate program for Doctors of Chiropractic who wish to become Board Certified in Chiropractic Pediatrics. This is an in-depth, rigorous academic program culminating in a comprehensive examination by an independent examining body. The program is administered by a CCE accredited institution or their international equivalent including Palmer College of Chiropractic, New York Chiropractic College and the New Zealand College of Chiropractic. To date, 147 doctors

are Board Certified in Chiropractic Pediatrics with the credential of a Diplomate of the International Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics (DICCP).

For more information about the ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics visit [www.icapediatrics.com](http://www.icapediatrics.com)