

Birmingham Chiropractic Clinic P.C.

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Informed Consent

The primary form of treatment used by doctors of chiropractic is an “adjustment.” The purpose of this form is to describe an “adjustment,” and explain the benefits and relative risks of chiropractic care. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to ask your doctor.

The Nature of the Chiropractic Adjustment

Chiropractors use their hands to apply a force to a specific joint in the body. The resultant force may elicit an audible “pop” or “click” that is similar to the sensation of “cracking” your knuckles. This noise occurs as gas (nitrogen) is released from the ligamentous tissue of a movable joint.

The Relative Risks of the Chiropractic Adjustment

As with any other health care procedure, there are certain risks that may be associated with the chiropractic adjustment. Although these risks are extremely rare, we believe it is an important part of the education process to inform the patient of any possible complications. Some associated risks include: fractures, dislocations, muscle strains, disc injuries, Horner’s syndrome, diaphragmatic paralysis, cervical myelopathy and costovertebral separations/strains. Some forms of cervical manipulation have been associated with injuries to the arteries of the head and neck, leading, or contributing to complications including stroke. Some patients have also reported soreness and stiffness after the first few days of treatment.

The Probability of Those Risks Occurring

As mentioned, the risks of the above events occurring are very rare. Fractures, if they are to occur in a chiropractic office, generally result from an underlying weakness in bone. At B.C.C. you will receive a thorough history, physical exam and X-Ray, which greatly reduces the risk of any complications. Several prominent research authorities have determined that there is less than a one-in-a-million chance of a stroke occurring in a chiropractic office (see attached handout). To further avoid risk, we employ several tests in our examination to identify if you may be at risk. The other complications mentioned above are generally considered rare.

The Availability of Other Treatment Options

We appreciate your decision to visit the doctors of B.C.C. Chiropractic is obviously not the only form of health care available to treat your condition. Many musculoskeletal conditions are being treated with: *OTC analgesics, bed rest, hospitalization, surgery,* and various forms of *medical care* (with supplemental use of prescriptive anti-inflammatories, muscle relaxants and pain-killers). If you have any questions about different treatment options, risks that may be associated with the options listed above, or the risks of receiving no treatment at all, please feel free to speak with your doctor.

Chiropractic is a non-invasive, drug-free form of health care. The doctors at B.C.C. will consider the spine and its interactions throughout the body’s vast kinetic chain before determining the best way to treat your condition.

I have read the above explanation of the chiropractic adjustment and related treatment. I have also discussed this form and had any questions answered by my doctor at B.C.C. By signing below, I state that I have weighed the risks involved in undergoing treatment and have decided that it is in my best interest to undergo the recommended treatment. Having been informed of the risks, I hereby give my consent to receive chiropractic care.

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if applicable)

Date

Printed Name