

RESEARCH – MURPHY

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ments, indicating “enhanced active inhibition” because the “cervical manipulations could have altered the afferent information originating from the cervical spine (from joints, muscles, etc.)”

19. “The passive head movement SEP experiment demonstrated that no significant changes occurred following a simple movement of the subject’s head. Our results are therefore not simply due to altered input from vestibular, muscle or cutaneous afferents as a result of the chiropractor’s touch or due to the actual movement of the subjects head. This therefore suggests that the results in this study are specific to the delivery of the high-velocity, low-amplitude thrust to dysfunctional joints.” **[Extremely Important]**

20. “Displacement of vertebrae is signaled to the central nervous system by afferent nerves arising from deep intervertebral muscles,” and this is improved with adjusting the adjacent dysfunctional joint.
21. “Joint dysfunction leads to bombardment of the central nervous system with Ia afferent signaling from surrounding intervertebral muscles.” Spinal manipulation reduces excessive afferent signals from adjacent intervertebral muscles which improves altered afferent input to the central nervous system. This changes the way the central nervous system “responds to any subsequent input.”
22. Episodes of acute pain following injury induce plastic changes in the sensorimotor system, prolonging the episode of pain and playing a roll in establishing chronic neck pain conditions. **[Very Important]** “The reduced cortical SEP amplitudes observed in this

study following spinal manipulation may reflect a normalization of such injury/pain-induced central plastic changes, which may reflect one mechanism for the improvement of functional ability reported following spinal manipulation.” **[Extremely Important]**

23. “Spinal manipulation of dysfunctional joints may modify transmission of neuronal circuitries not only at a spinal level but at a cortical level, and possibly also deeper brain structures such as the basal ganglia.” **[Very Important]**
24. Cervical spine manipulation alters cortical [brain] somatosensory processing and sensorimotor integration.
25. These findings may help to elucidate the mechanisms responsible for the effective relief of pain and restoration of functional ability documented following spinal manipulation treatment.

AUTHOR’S COMMENT

One of the central themes of the neurology diplomate program taught by Ted Carrick, D.C. is that chiropractic spinal adjusting influences the cortical brain, creating plastic changes. This article very much supports that perspective.

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HHS Launches New Web Site on HIPAA Privacy Compliance and Enforcement

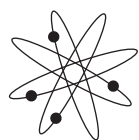
After four years HIPAA remains a quiet reality, with health care providers obligated by this federal law to act to safeguard patient information, and with the potential for stringent penalties for failing to do so. In spite of the seeming stringency of the federal privacy rules, there have been few enforcement actions and the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) seems committed to a continuing effort to educate and assist providers in becoming and staying compliant, rather than focusing on hard-line, uncompromising enforcement. This does not mean, however, that doctors of chiropractic, along with other health care providers, should let down their guard or fail to take the potential consequences seriously.

To coincide with the fourth anniversary of the enforcement of the HIPAA Privacy Rule, HHS has announced the launch of an enhanced Web site designed to make it easier for consumers, health care providers and others to get information about how the Department enforces health information privacy rights and standards. In launching the website, Winston Wilkinson, the Director of the HHS Office for Civil Rights, noted: “HHS has obtained significant change in the privacy practices of covered entities through its enforcement program. Corrective actions obtained by HHS from these entities have resulted in change that is systemic and affects all the individuals they serve.”

The Health Information Privacy Web site provides comprehensive information about the Privacy Rule, which creates important federal rights and requirements to protect the privacy of personal health information. The enhanced Web site provides information for consumers, health care providers, health plans and others in the health care industry about HHS’s compliance and enforcement efforts.

The new information describes HHS activities in enforcing the Privacy Rule, the results of those enforcement activities, and statistics showing which types of

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