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History of Chiropractic

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Introduction

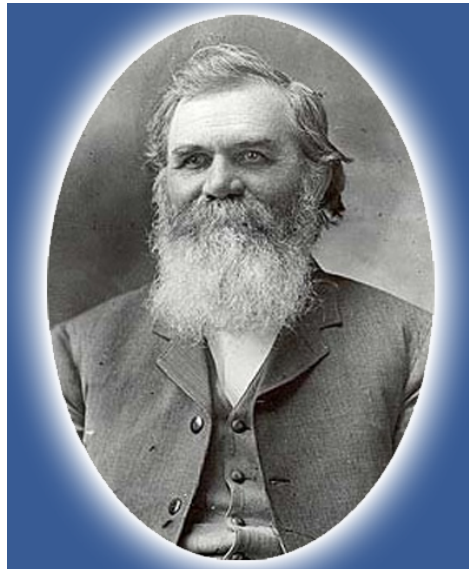
The roots of chiropractic care can be traced all the way back to the beginning of recorded time. Writings from China and Greece written between 2700 B.C. and 1500 B.C. mention spinal adjustment (Tui Na) and describe the positioning and moving of the legs to ease low back pain. Hippocrates, a Greek physician, who lived from 460 to 357 B.C., published texts detailing the importance of spinal care. He wrote, "Get knowledge of the spine, for this is the requisite for many diseases."

In the United States, the practice of spinal adjustment started to gain momentum in the late nineteenth century. From its inception chiropractic has recognized the vital importance of the nervous system and has not separated what the nervous system is responsible for from the treatment of the bony spinal structure that protects it.

Dr. Daniel David Palmer, the "father of Chiropractic", was born in Pickering, Ontario, Canada in 1845. At age 20 he left Canada to pursue various careers until 1895, in Davenport, Iowa, he founded "Chiropractic"

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(from the Greek words Cheir = hand and Praxis = to treat) as a healing art after helping the janitor in his building regain some of his hearing with what is considered in chiropractic circles to be the first adjustment.¹



Daniel David Palmer was very well versed in the information written in medical journals of his era and he also had great knowledge of developments that were occurring through the world regarding anatomy and physiology. After treating the janitor and another patient with heart issues, he wrote "I had a case of heart trouble which was not improving. I examined the spine and found a displaced vertebra

Exercise of the Week

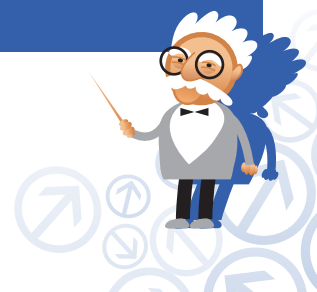
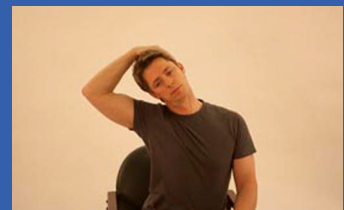
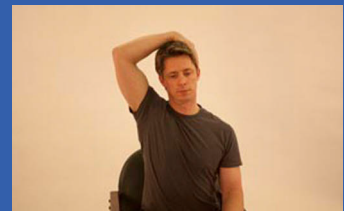
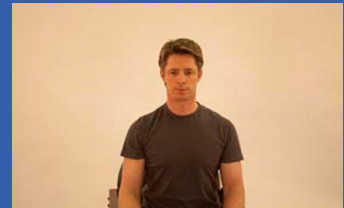
Lateral Flexion – Assisted Stretch

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

*(Consult your chiropractor before doing this or any other exercise.)*¹

Start: Sit upright in chair.

Exercise: Place one hand on top of head, with fingers pointing down toward opposite ear. Then, allow neck to relax as weight of arm pulls head and neck gently to side. You should not feel pain in this position. Drop shoulder on side you feel the stretch. Hold for 20-30 seconds. Switch sides, and repeat 2X per side.



pressing against the nerves which innervate the heart. I adjusted the vertebra and gave immediate relief -nothing "accidental" or "crude" about this. Then I began to reason if two diseases, so dissimilar as deafness and heart trouble, came from impingement, a pressure on nerves, were not other disease due to a similar cause?"

The science (knowledge) and art (adjusting) of Chiropractic were formed at that time. In 1897, Daniel David Palmer established the Palmer School of Chiropractic, which continues to be one of the most prominent chiropractic colleges in the United States.



Through the twentieth century, doctors of chiropractic gained legal recognition in all fifty states and in the Canadian provinces. Recognition and respect for chiropractic in North America has resulted in growing support for chiropractic care globally. International research also yields positive scientific results for chiropractic which have changed, shaped and molded today's perceptions of chiropractic care. In 1979, The New Zealand Report strongly supported the efficacy of chiropractic care and resulted in the integration of chiropractic and medical care in

that country. The 1993 Manga study² published in Canada investigated the cost effectiveness of chiropractic care. The results of this study concluded that chiropractic care would save the Canadian government hundreds of millions of dollars annually with regard to work disability payments and direct health care costs if chiropractic were used first with low back pain.

Today's chiropractors frequently treat individuals with neuro-musculoskeletal symptoms such as headaches, neck and low back pain, sciatica and other joint pains. Chiropractors also treat osteoarthritis, spinal disk conditions, carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, sprains, and strains. However, the scope of conditions that Doctors of chiropractic manage or provide care for is not limited to neuro-musculoskeletal disorders. Chiropractors also have the training to diagnose and treat a variety of nonneuro-musculoskeletal conditions like allergies, asthma, digestive disorders and non-suppurative otitis media.

As additional research is done, chiropractic care for these conditions may become as normal as seeing your chiropractor for neck or low back pain!



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Quote to Inspire

"There is a vast difference between treating effects and adjusting the causes"

Dr. Daniel D. Palmer

References and Sources:

1. Palmer, D.D. (1910) The Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic Portland, Oregon: Portland Printing House Company

2. http://www.dctor.com/pages/rightpages_allaboutchiro/research/research_government.html



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