

## A PROSPECTIVE STUDY ON THE SAFETY OF PEDIATRIC CHIROPRACTIC SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY: RESULTS FROM A PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK

J. Alcantara<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Ohm<sup>3,4</sup>, K. Kunz<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*International Chiropractic Pediatric Association, San Jose*, <sup>2</sup>*Research, Life Chiropractic College West, Hayward, CA*, <sup>3</sup>*International Chiropractic Pediatric Association*, <sup>4</sup>*Chiropractic, Ohm Chiropractic*, <sup>5</sup>*Practice Based Research Network, International Chiropractic Pediatric Association, Media, PA, USA*

**Background:** Concerns regarding the safety and effectiveness of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies have been raised. Of the various practitioner-based CAM therapies, chiropractic remains popular. To address safety concerns, we examined the prevalence and incidence of adverse events in a practice-based research network setting.

**Methods:** This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Life University (Atlanta, GA, USA). In a prospective cohort study, we characterized the chiropractic care of children and examined the prevalence and incidence of adverse events (AEs) associated with pediatric SMT.

**Results:** Two-hundred sixty-four chiropractors reported on 512 children. An AE prevalence of 0.67% was calculated with risk estimates of 880, 141 and 28 cases per 1 million person-year for the first, second and third AE occurrence. Four hundred forty nine parents reported on similar number of children. A prevalence of 4.45% calculated with risk estimates of 978 and 172 cases per 1 million person-year for the first and second AE occurrence.

**Discussion:** Children attend chiropractic care for wellness and to address dysfunctions of the neuromusculoskeletal system and conditions of childhood. Parents indicate a high perceived effectiveness with indicated AEs as minor and self-limiting.

**Conclusion:** We provided supporting data that AEs associated with pediatric chiropractic SMT are rare. We encourage further research in this field.