

CHIROPRACTIC STROKE VICTIMS

Below is just a sampling of the hundreds and hundreds of young people who are needlessly injured or killed by strokes caused by chiropractic neck manipulation each year.



Linda Solsbury

Linda Solsbury of New London, Connecticut became a mute paraplegic at the young age of 36 following a chiropractic neck adjustment in 1985. Linda spent the next 22 years trying to raise public awareness about the risks of the procedure until her death from related causes in 2007 at the age of 57.



Britt Harwe

In April of 1993, Britt Harwe of Wethersfield, Connecticut was 26 years old when a chiropractic neck adjustment crushed a vertebral artery causing a stroke that left her unable to swallow. She was fed through a tube for 16-years until an innovative surgical procedure restored her ability to eat and drink.



John Hoffman

39-year old John Hoffman of Gaithersburg, Maryland suffered a stroke 3-hours after having a chiropractic neck adjustment in August 2004. The medical examiner listed his cause of death as stroke caused by neck manipulation.



Beverly Staudt

At age 59, Beverly left the chiropractor's office in Springfield, Missouri and collapsed in the parking lot. She was rushed to a hospital, but never regained consciousness. She suffered a vertebral dissection and brainstem stroke. Three days later, on April 8, 2008, Beverly died.



Jenny Gillespie

Jenny Gillespie was a 25 year old just starting her life in Fort Worth, Texas when she had her neck adjusted. "The chiropractor took me home while I was having my first strokes," Jenny said. Once she got to the hospital the care was no better. "As a 25 year old they never even thought to check me for stroke."



John Ferguson

John Ferguson was a healthy 40-year old who, after waking one day in 2003 with a stiff neck, had a chiropractic neck adjustment near his home in Cary, North Carolina. From a family of chiropractors, John was stunned when the adjustment caused a severe stroke and left him permanently disabled.



Kristi Bedenbaugh

24-year old Kristi Bedenbaugh of Little Mountain, South Carolina was experiencing sinus headaches in 1993. Kristi sought relief from her chiropractor who performed a neck manipulation. The procedure caused a brain stem stroke and she died three days later.



Les Limage

Stroke symptoms appeared shortly after 67-year old Les Limage of Ontario, Canada had a chiropractic neck adjustment in 2001. Medical doctors determined his double vision, nausea and headaches came from a torn vertebral artery caused by the neck manipulation. He was left permanently paralyzed.



Eric Sass

A church youth counselor, from Anthem, Arizona, went to a chiropractor on July 3, 2008 to have a routine spine & neck adjustment for "wellness." Eric experienced dizziness, impaired vision and headache shortly after. His medical doctor diagnosed it as a stroke.

"With science, common sense and the interest of the patient as our sole concern, all of these cases are entirely preventable."

– Preston Long, Doctor of Chiropractic



Jeremy Youngblood

On June 9, 2011, 30-year-old Jeremy went to a chiropractor in Ada, Oklahoma for a sore neck. Two days later he died of a stroke brought on by the procedure, according to the medical examiner.



Kim McCormick

On July 16, 2006, Kim McCormick of Ridgefield, Connecticut died of a stroke as a result of a chiropractic neck adjustment. She was 32 years old. Her three children were between the ages of seven months and five years old when their mother died.



Scott Tatro

In the summer of 2000, Scott Tatro, a 41-year old excavator in Antigo, Wisconsin, went to see a chiropractor about soreness and pain caused by work. The treatment, neck manipulation, caused a brain stem stroke that resulted in Locked-in Syndrome (mute quadriplegic).



Christa Orsino

Minutes after leaving the chiropractor's office in November 2003 Christa Orsino of Kingston, New York, age 39, felt nauseated and dizzy. No longer able to control her body, she slumped over the center console. A vertebral artery has been dissected and she had suffered a stroke.



David MacDonald

In November of 2000, David MacDonald of Windsor Locks, Connecticut had a neck adjustment and suffered a bi-lateral dissection of his carotid arteries. He was in a coma for 5-weeks and rehab for 6-weeks. David was partially paralyzed and used a wheelchair until his premature death in 2010 at the age of 63.



Molly Brown

Molly was enjoying success as a professional dancer on Broadway and the glamorous life of New York City. After visiting a chiropractor for muscle soreness in October 1993, she was diagnosed with vertebral artery dissection and stroke. Her career and life as she knew it was over at the young age of 32.



Kelley Lowery

Kelley was a 29-year old athlete enjoying the prime of her life in San Jose, California. After neck manipulation in 2007, she suffered two vertebral dissections and two strokes. In a coma for 3 months, Kelley awoke unable to move or speak. She suffered permanent brain damage.



Sandra Nette

After her last chiropractic appointment on Sept. 13, 2007, Sandra Nette of Alberta, Canada felt dizzy. She had suffered multiple strokes from tears to both vertebral arteries in her neck. Sandy suffered Locked-In-Syndrome at 41 years old.



Laurie Jean Mathiason

20-year old waitress Laurie Jean Mathiason of Saskatoon, Canada died in February 1998 days after having her neck adjusted by a chiropractor. Mathiason's case prompted Canadian neurologists to call for a stroke warning to be given to patients.

NECK ADJUSTMENTS CAN CAUSE STROKE

Kaiser Permanente, the esteemed healthcare organization in 2010, concluded that there is a paucity of data related to beneficial effects of chiropractic manipulation of the cervical spine and the real potential for catastrophic adverse events." {i.e. stroke}

The Journal of Neurosurgery, on September 16, 2011, published a study that reported that, "Chiropractic manipulation of the cervical spine is a known cause of craniocervical arterial dissections. These injuries can be severe and patients were left permanently disabled or died as a result of their arterial injuries".

The National Quality Forum (NQF), a non-profit organization, based in Washington D.C., that is dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare in the U.S., has endorsed a list of 27 adverse care management events that are serious, entirely preventable and should be publicly reported. One of the events is "patient death or serious disability due to spinal manipulative therapy."

The American Chiropractic Association, has stated in its own published "Talking Points" "It is true that neck manipulation is a risk factor for stroke"

The Canadian Stroke Consortium, a highly respected Canadian organization, has concluded that "people under 45 year of age who suffer a stroke are 5 times more likely to have seen a chiropractor in the previous week."

The Canadian Chiropractic Journal in 2004 stated that "any form of excessive or abrupt cervical motion may dislodge an embolus. (which can potentially cause a stroke)

"I've personally seen many patients who had an episode of treatment of their neck with spinal manipulation and who a day or two later had the sudden onset of stroke-like symptoms."

Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., Acute Stroke Services, Massachusetts General Hospital

If you take into consideration how many times they (patients) go and how many manipulations are performed, it does become a public health concern. It's a low risk, but potentially a life-threatening one.

Wouter I. Schievink, M.D., Director, Vascular Neurosurgery, Cedars-Sinai Med Center

"Recently seeing a chiropractor is an independent risk factor for stroke."

Wade S. Smith, M.D., Neurovascular Service, Univ. of Calif. at San Francisco

"Chiropractic manipulation of the neck carries the risk of tearing the vertebral artery that leads to the brain, thereby causing stroke or transient ischemic attack." (TIA)

Howard Kirschner, M.D. director of the Vanderbilt Stroke Center in Nashville

"And if the chiropractor says, No, there's not (any risk to neck manipulation)', I tell my patients to leave the chiropractor's office because they're lying"

David E. Thaler, MD Director, Tufts New England Stroke Center

"Cervical Manipulation is a preposterous thing to do, and it should be banned."

M.Mehdi Kazmi, MD, Professor of Neurology, Einstein College