

Literature Review on Catastrophic Complications of Chiropractic Manipulations

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Abstract:

Chiropractic care is widely recognized as an alternative treatment for musculoskeletal disorders, particularly for managing back and neck pain. While most chiropractic treatments are associated with positive reported outcomes, there is a small subset of patients who experience catastrophic complications following chiropractic manipulation. These complications, though rare, can be severe such as dissection of extracranial arteries (more common vertebral artery dissection-VAD), stroke, and even death. This literature review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the known catastrophic complications associated with chiropractic care, the mechanisms underlying these complications, the risk factors involved, and recommendations for mitigating risks.