

# Dr. M. Curtis Hobson

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**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

The primary treatment used by doctors of chiropractic is spinal manipulation or adjustments. I will use this procedure in your treatment program.

## **Nature of the chiropractic manipulation:**

I will use my hands to manipulate or loosen and reposition the joints of your spine. Often with this procedure, you will hear a popping noise associated with the loosening and repositioning.

## **The material risks inherent to chiropractic manipulation:**

As with any health care procedure, there are certain complications that may arise from chiropractic manipulation. These complications may include aggravation of degenerative joints or injured spinal discs, rib fractures, ligament sprains, muscle strains, nerve injury or spinal cord compression. Manipulation of the neck has been associated with injury to arteries in the neck leading to or contributing to stroke. Local soreness and or stiffness is a typical reaction in the early phases of treatment.

## **Probability of those risks occurring:**

Fractures are rare occurrences and generally result from underlying bone weakness which I check for during your history, examination and x-rays where needed. The exact incidence of stroke is uncertain, but, it is generally believed to occur in less than one per 1 million treatments. I employ physical tests that are advocated to screen for this risk, but they are generally accepted as being insensitive. All other complications are also generally described as rare.

## **The availability and nature of other treatment options:**

- Other-the-counter medications and rest
  
- Medical care which may include anti-inflammatory drugs, muscle relaxants and pain medications
  
- Surgery

**Material risks inherent to your other treatment options:**

These common analgesics and anti-inflammatory drugs have been shown to cause damage to the stomach and intestines, and possibly to the kidneys. Approximately 1 in 150 patients taking anti-inflammatory drugs for extended time periods require hospitalization for stomach ulceration. There are about 16,500 deaths in the U.S. each year from these complications which is more common than death from either Hodgkin’s disease or Cervical Cancer. The risks are similar for both prescription anti-inflammatory as well as over-the-counter medications.

Spine surgery may be a consideration for some cases. It, however, is reserved for those cases where extensive conservative treatment has been tried and has failed. Spine surgery is associated with a minor complication rate of between 9 per 100 and 15 per 100 cases depending on the area of the spine involved. More serious complications of the nervous system may occur in 1 in 400 cases, and death has been reported in approximately 1 per 1500 cases.

While spinal manipulation is associated with complications in a small number of cases, it has a complication rate of several thousand times less than other typical treatment options.

**DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE.**

I have read, or have had read to me the above explanation of chiropractic manipulation or adjustment and related treatment. I have discussed it with the doctor and have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. By signing below I state that I have weighed the risks involved in undergoing treatment and have myself decided that it is in my best interest to undergo the treatment recommended. Having been informed of the risks, I hereby give my consent to that treatment.

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Guardian (If a Minor)