

Informed Consent

Chiropractic Treatment & Acupuncture/Dry Needling

Chiropractors, physiotherapists, and medical doctors are required to advise their patients of their condition specific diagnosis (which will be discussed with you individually following your examination) and the material risks associate with treatment of their specific condition.

In regards to Chiropractic Joint Manipulation:

- Spinal adjustments (on rare occasions) may result in ligament sprains, muscle strains; or fractures (rib fractures being the most common). The most reported side-effect is post-treatment soreness and symptom aggravation. Typically, these symptoms self-resolve without intervention.
- Injury to the Vertebral Artery has occurred during cervical manipulation resulting in neurological impairment or stroke. Scientific evidence estimates the risk to be 1 case in 450,000 up to 1 case in 1.4 million neck manipulations. We do not currently possess the ability to accurately predict which patients are at risk for this event. Similar events have been reported to have occurred in patients washing their hair, playing volleyball, or spontaneously without mechanism.

In regards to Acupuncture and/or Dry Needle Acupuncture:

- Acupuncture/Dry Needling is generally very safe. Serious side-effects are very rare – less than one per 10,000 treatments. The most common side effect is a Pneumothorax (collapsed lung). The risks of this are minimal provided proper needling techniques are employed.
- Constitutional symptoms can occur including: drowsiness, fatigue, faintness, needling site pain, and aggravation of symptoms. These symptoms are normal and will usually subside without intervention.
- Minor bleeding or bruising occurs after acupuncture/dry needling in about 3% of treatments. This poses no risk to most patients but if you have a clotting disorder this contraindicates the use of acupuncture as treatment.
- Other potential risks include: stuck/bent/broken needles, potential injury to blood vessels/muscle/nerve/joint tissue, potential injury to internal organs, cross contamination events. All these risks can be virtually eliminated with the proper consideration of anatomy and strict adherence to clean needle techniques.
- **SINGLE-USE, STERILE DISPOSABLE NEEDLES ARE USED IN THIS CLINIC AND WE ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF 'CLEAN NEEDLE TECHNIQUES' DURING ALL TREATMENTS.**

Please notify your doctor:

- If you have had past surgical intervention to a joint, or the spine.
- If you are prone to fainting.
- If you have a pacemaker or other electrical implants.
- If you have a bleeding disorder, are currently taking anti-coagulants, or have high blood pressure.

I have been fully informed of my specific diagnosis and I have discussed the proposed treatment plan in detail. I am aware of the risks inherent to my treatment and realize that my condition may improve, deteriorate, or sustain its current status.

I do hereby give my consent to be treated willingly and voluntarily. I recognize that my consent is specific to my current complaint and the treatment plan that has been proposed. I am aware that I may withdraw my consent to treatment, in whole or in part, on any occasion.

Patient Name (please print)

Patient Signature

Witness Name (please print)

Witness Signature

Updated: January 1, 2018