

*How to Implement the Contemporary Brain
Model of Chiropractic Care into Practice*



Heidi Haavik BSc (chiropractic), PhD
VP Research, Dean Research
New Zealand College of Chiropractic

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CHIROFEST™

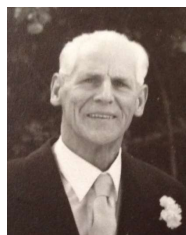
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The **HANDOUT** for today's Class (the slides)

3



Dr William Charles
Lawson - Palmer
Graduate 1924



1999 NZCC Graduate



2008 PhD



4



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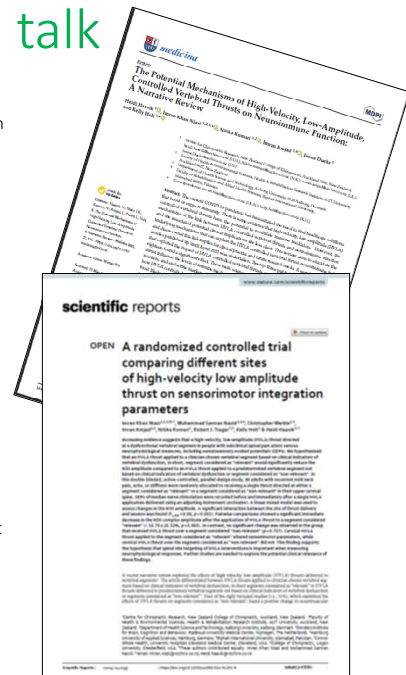
Key References for today's talk



Heidi Haavik, Nitika Kumari, Kelly Holt, Imran Khan Niazi, Imran Amjad, Amit N. Pujari, Kemal Sitki Türker, Bernadette Murphy. (2021a) The contemporary model of vertebral column joint dysfunction and impact of high-velocity, low-amplitude controlled vertebral thrusts on neuromuscular function. Invited Review. *European Journal of Applied Physiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00421-021-04727-z>


Heidi Haavik, Imran Khan Niazi, Nitika Kumari, Imran Amjad, Jenna Duehr, Kelly Holt. (2021b) The potential mechanisms of High-Velocity, Low-Amplitude, Controlled Vertebral Thrusts on Neuroimmune Function: A narrative review. *Medicina* 2021, 57, 536. <https://doi.org/10.3390/medicina57060536>

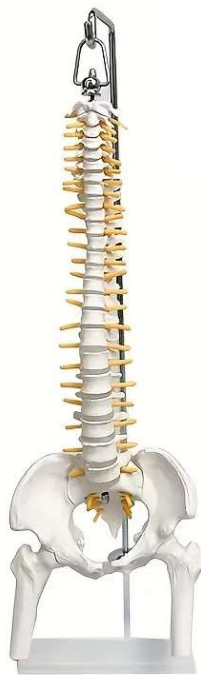
Imran Khan Niazi, Muhammad Samran Navid, Christopher Merkle, Imran Amjad, Nitika Kumari, Robert J. Trager, Kelly Holt, Heidi Haavik. 2024 A randomized controlled trial comparing different sites of high-velocity low amplitude thrust on sensorimotor integration parameters. *Scientific Report*. 14(1), p.1159. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-51201-9>




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Do you have a spine model in your practice?



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Do you have a brain model in your practice?



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Outline

- What is the Brain Model of Chiropractic?
- How do you incorporate this new science into practice?
- How often, and for how long should we see our patients – according to the available science?
- The power of a single adjustment session
- Where in the brain do we find changes after chiropractic care?
- The latest brain network research
- Symptoms, and how they become a chronic problem, and how chiropractic care can help
- Future directions

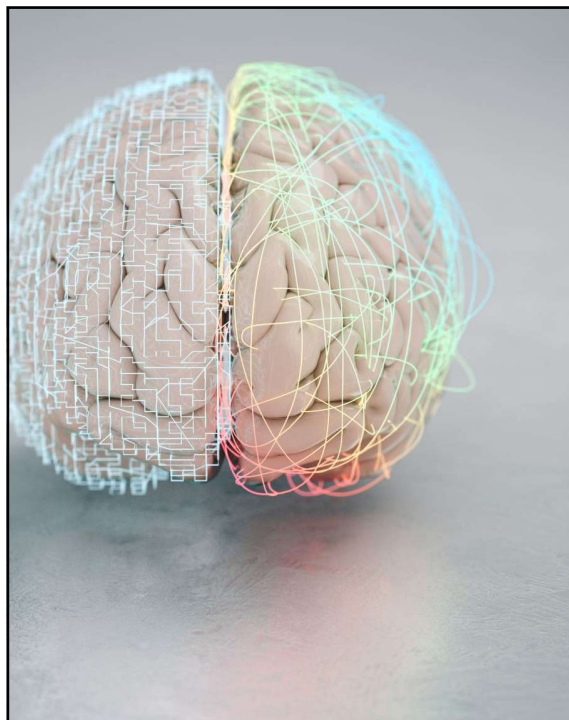
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What is the Brain Model of Chiropractic?

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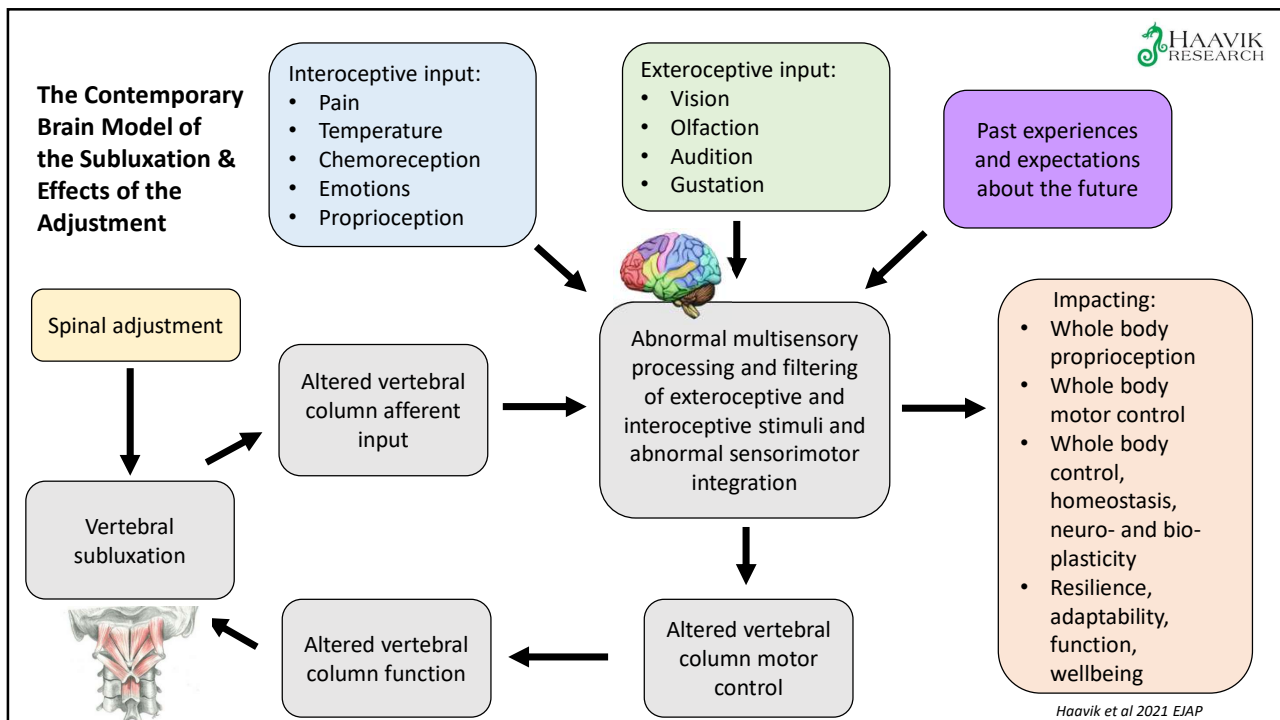
Short Version What is Chiropractic?

"Research indicates that chiropractic care, that includes the adjustment of vertebral subluxations, enhances brain-body communication, allowing your brain to more accurately interpret internal and external signals. This improved perception of what is happening inside you and around you enables your brain to optimize bodily functions and adapt more effectively to your environment."

Heidi Haavik

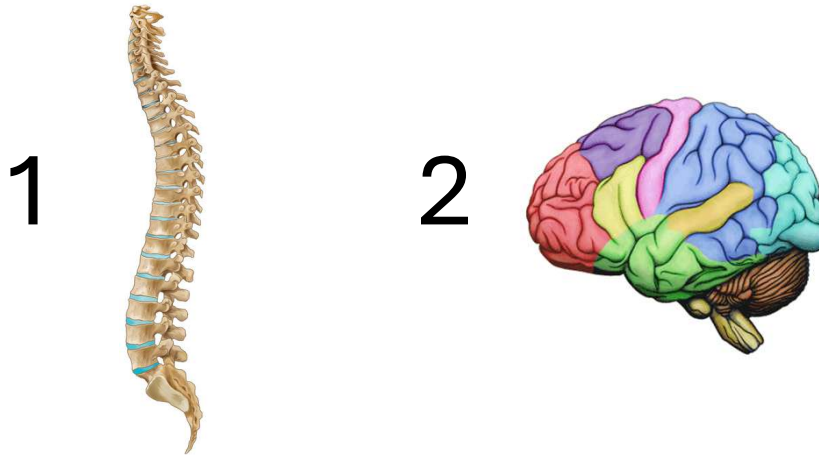
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What is a Subluxation according to the science?



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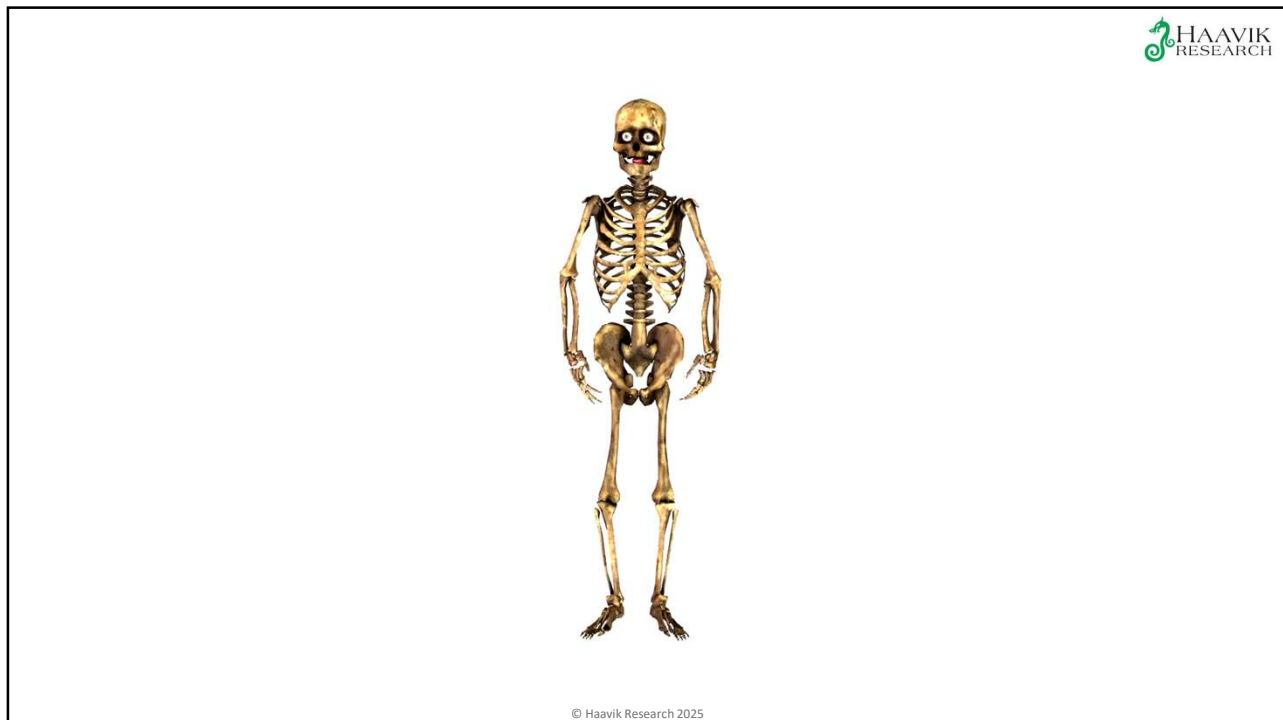
Vertebral Subluxation

What is spinal dysfunction?
What is normal spinal function?

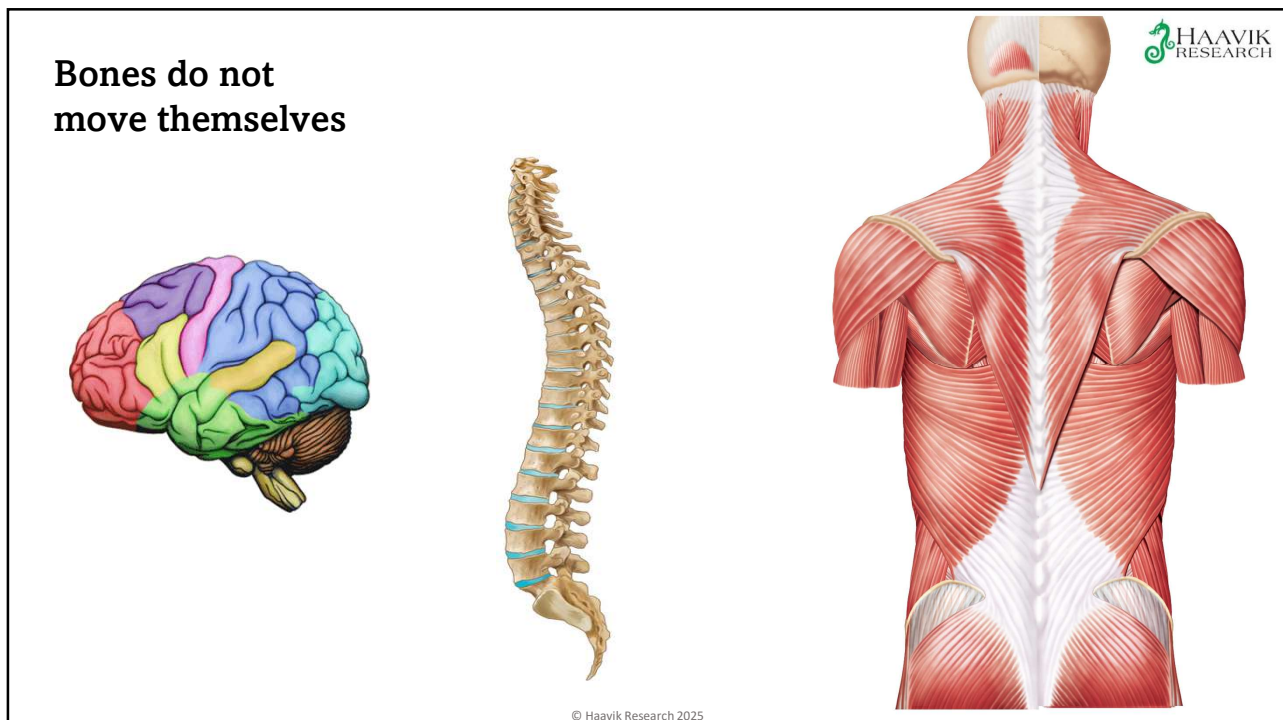


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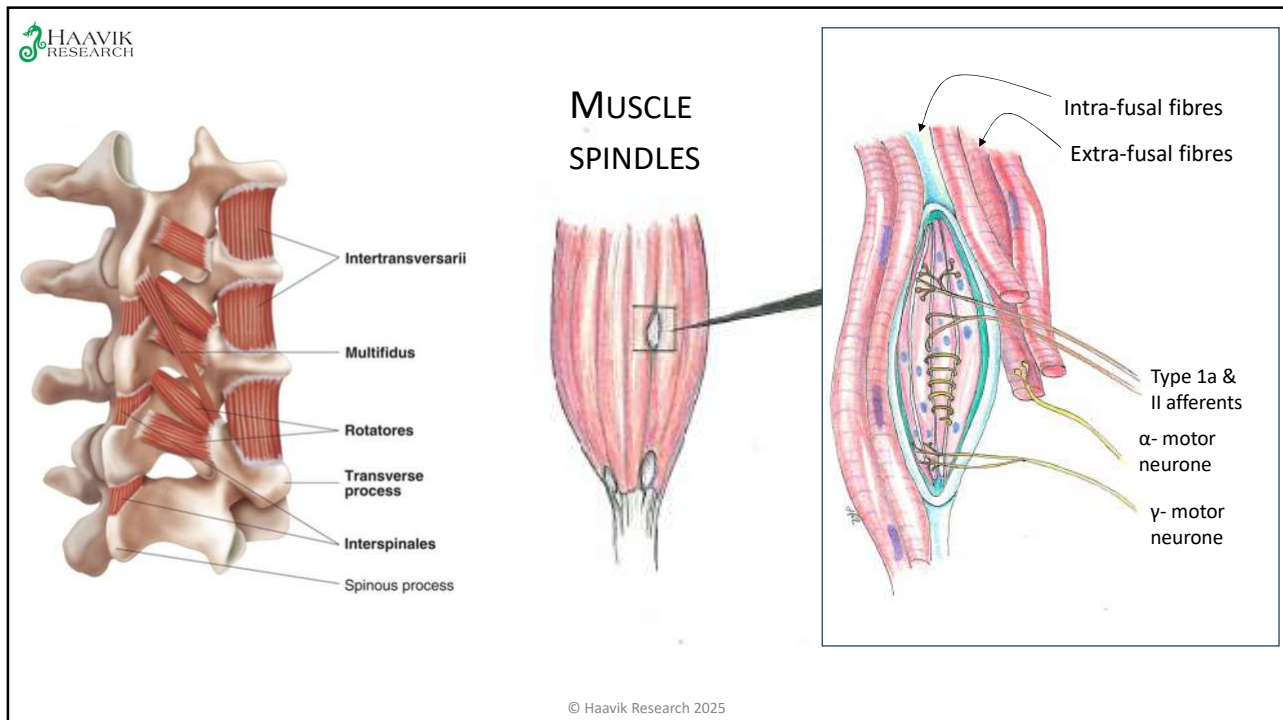
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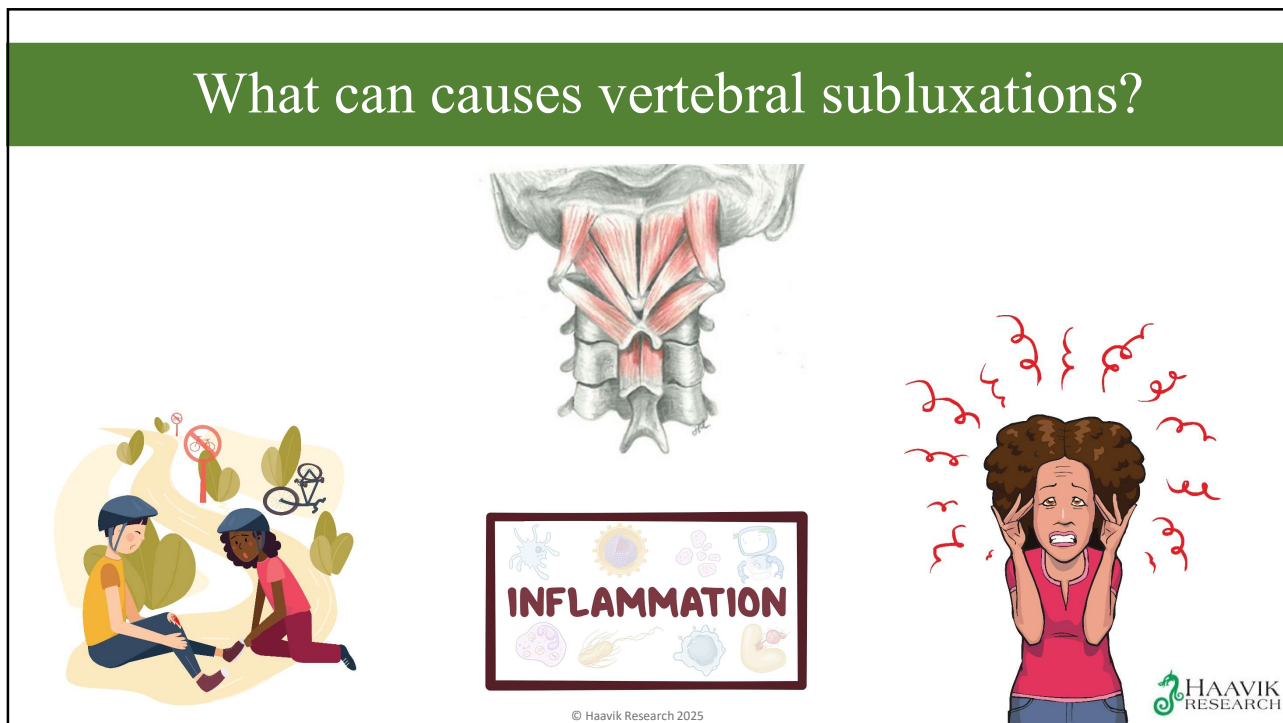
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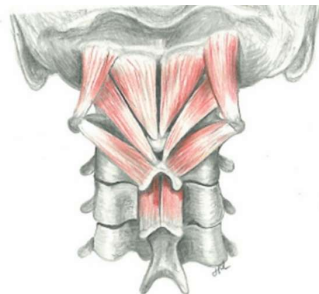
21

What happens when the spine dysfunctions?

Subluxated segment deep paraspinal muscles over time become:

- Stiff and Fibrotic
- Atrophied (shrunk)
- Fatty infiltration
- Change fibre type
- Degeneration around joint
- Stretch receptors dysfunction

↑
NOT Good

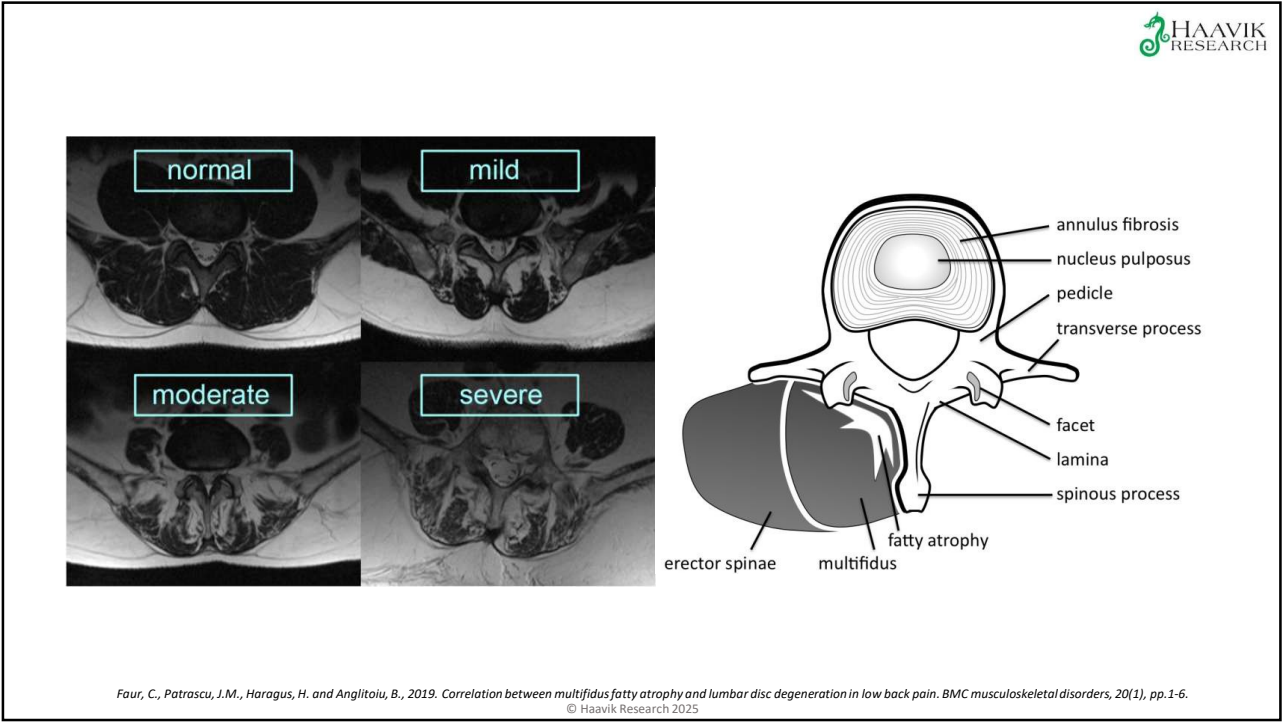


Deep paraspinal muscles around a 'healthy' segment are:

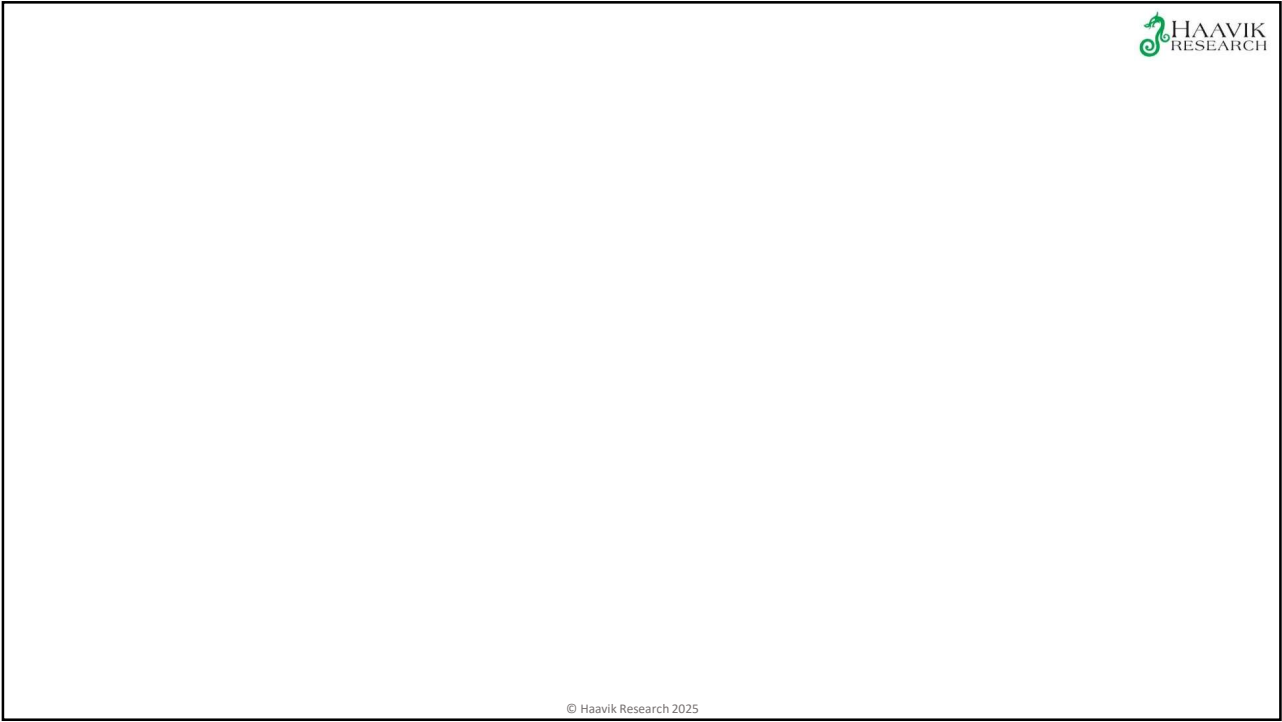
- Plump
- Larger in size
- Slow-twitch fibre type
- No fatty infiltration
- Move freely
- Healthy stretch receptors

↑
Good

22



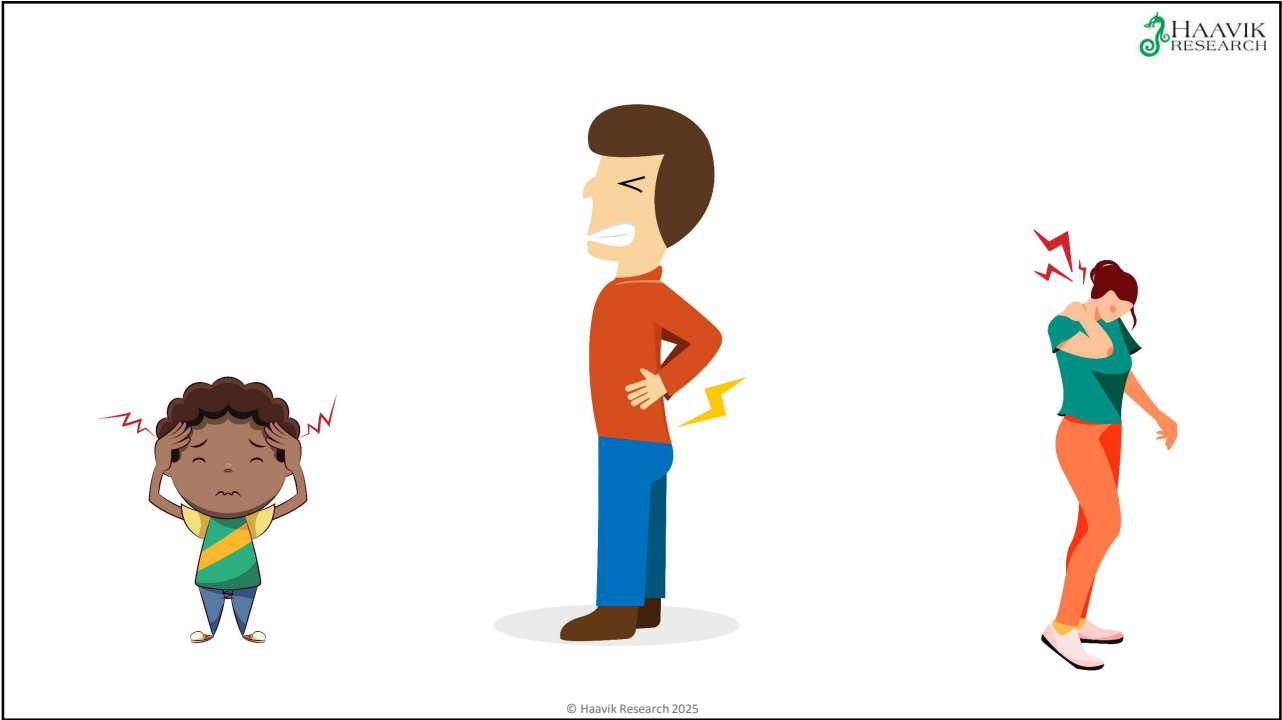
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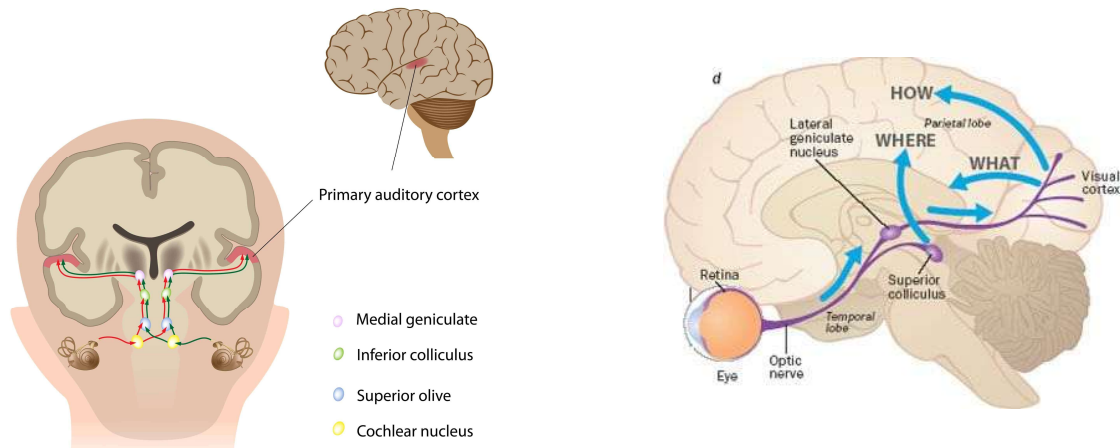


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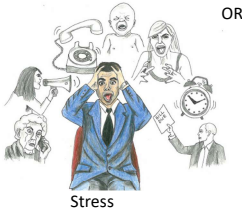
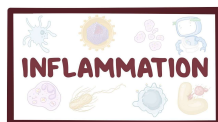
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Interpreting sound and visual information



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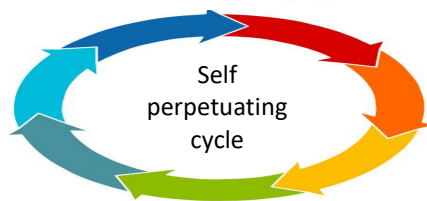
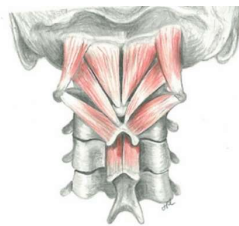
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OR



Small muscles closest to spine and skull
go to sleep

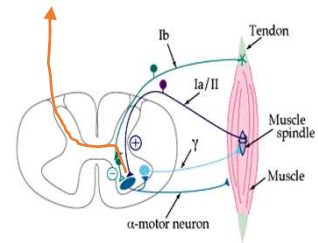
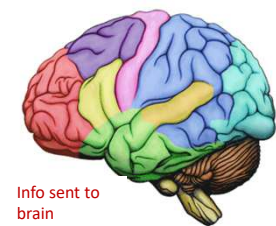


Poor body awareness
Poor body control
Poor function

So brain does NOT
know accurately
what is going on



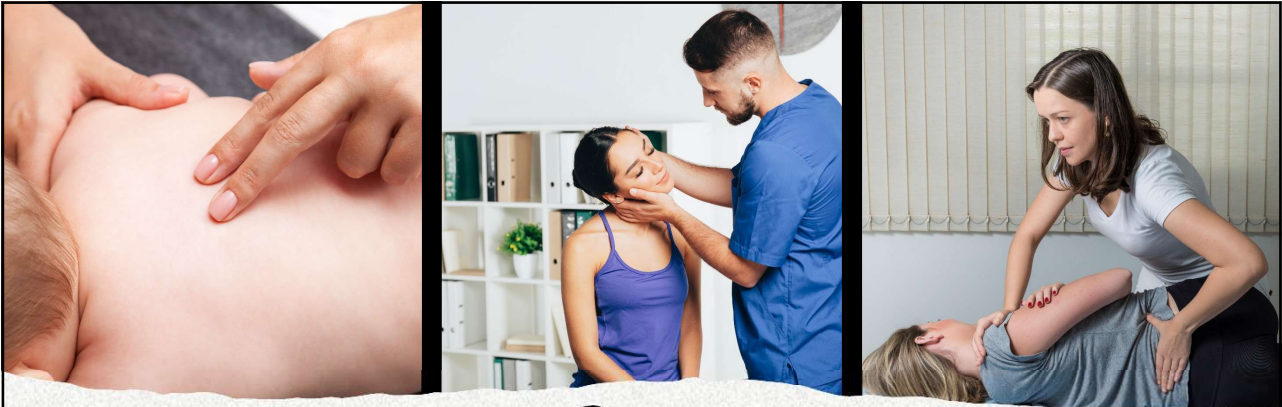
Changes brains internal
representations about what is
going on inside and outside body



Altered messages going to brain
from spine

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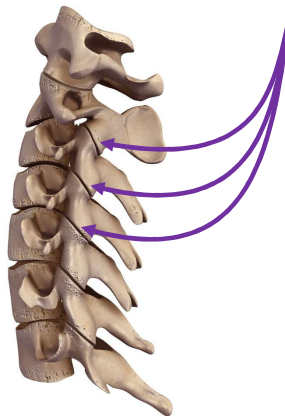


This is where your chiropractor can help

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The facet joints gap during a thrust and you get increased intersegmental ROM!



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Anderst et al. 2018 The Spine Journal.

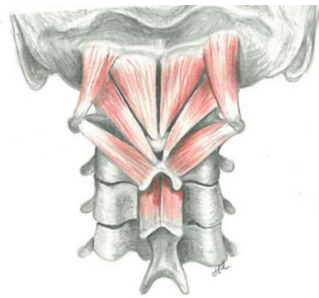
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What happens when the spine dysfunctions?

Subluxated segment deep paraspinal muscles over time become:

- Stiff and Fibrotic
- Atrophied (shrink)
- Fatty infiltration
- Change fibre type /function
- Degeneration around joint
- Stretch receptors dysfunction

↑
NOT Good



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Deep paraspinal muscles around a 'healthy' segment are:

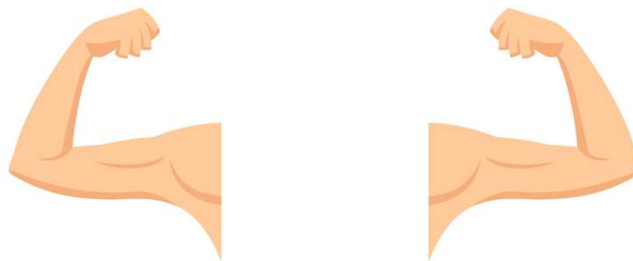
- Plump
- Larger in size
- Slow-twitch fibre type
- No fatty infiltration
- Move freely
- Healthy stretch receptors

↑
Good

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It takes more than four weeks of exercise before you alter the morphology of the muscle

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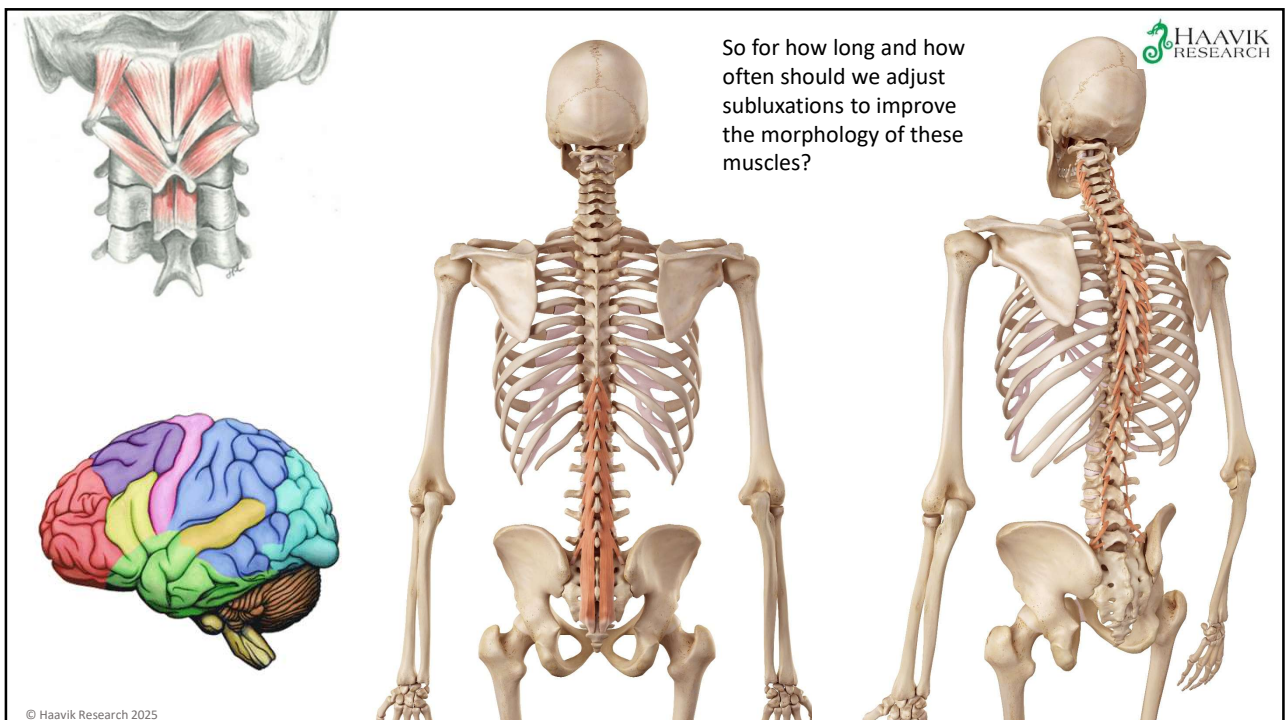
Implications for practice!

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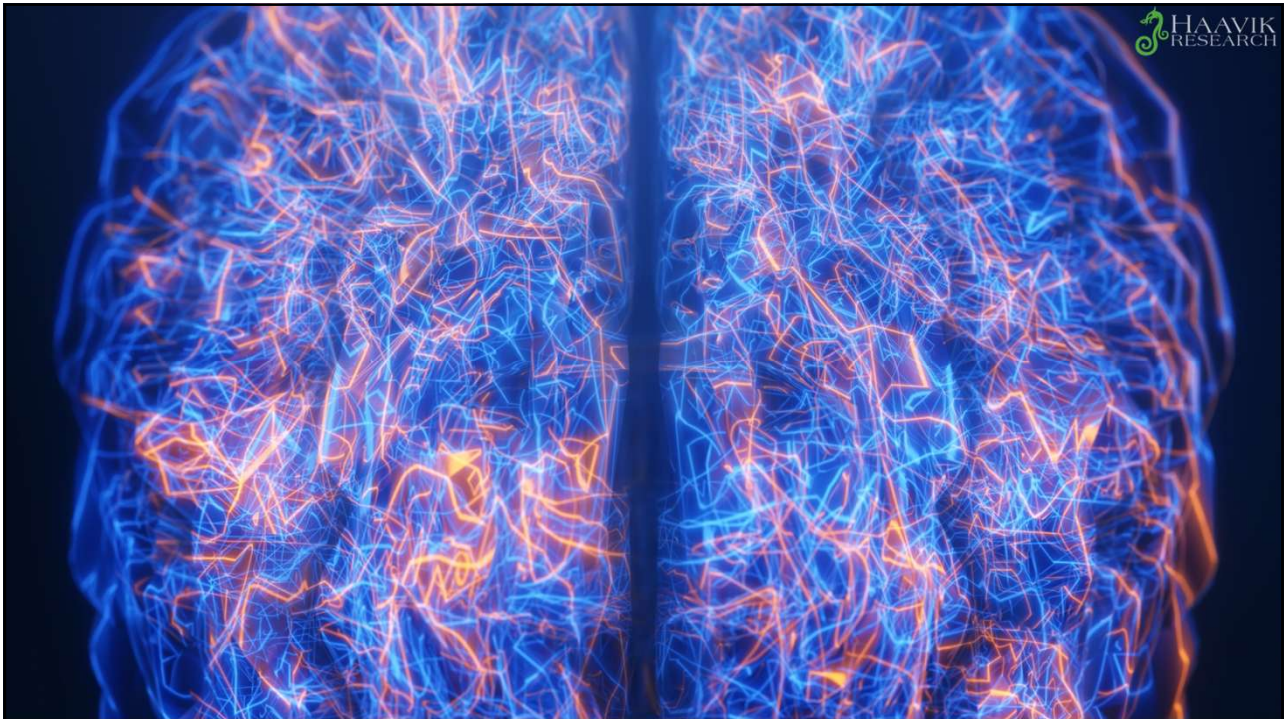
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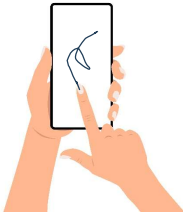



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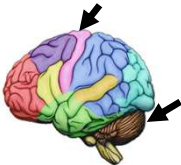
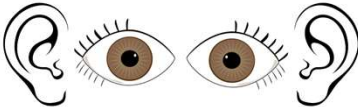
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Spinal dysfunction vs Healthy people





Normal Orientation									
R	↗	↘	↖	↙	↘	↗	↖	↙	R
0°	45°	90°	135°	180°	225°	270°	315°		
Mirror-Image Orientation									



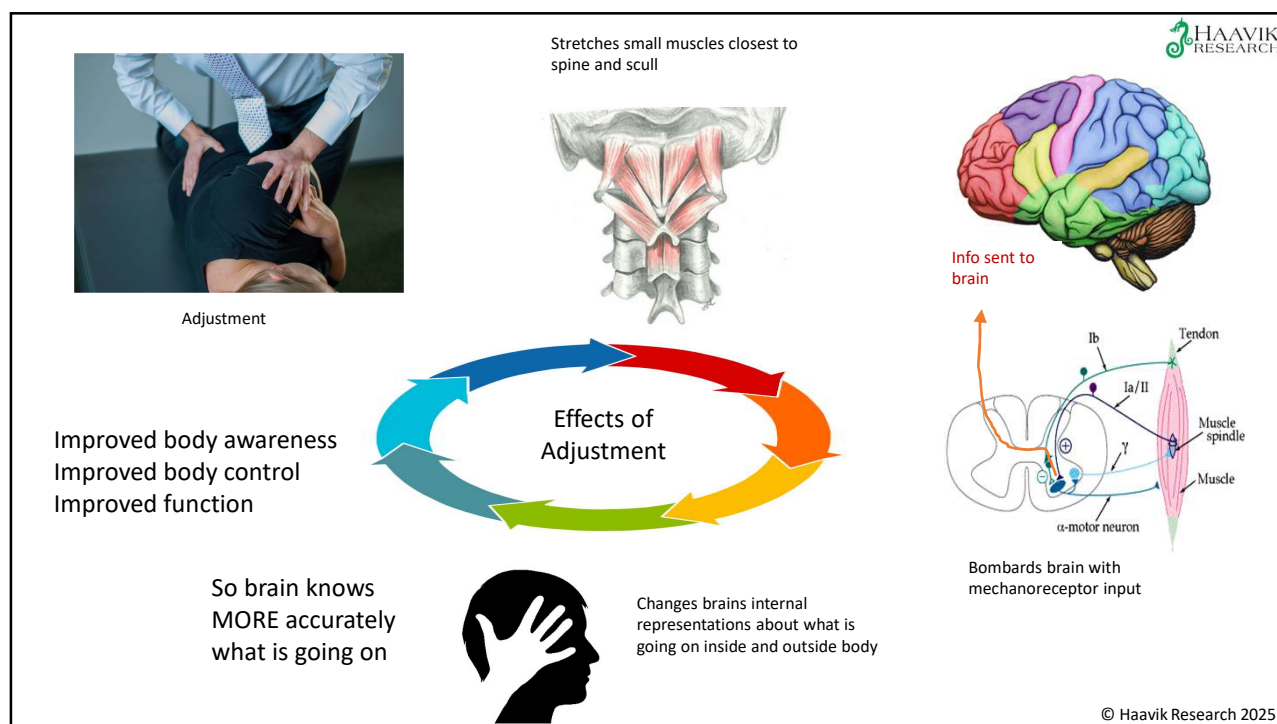
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This tells me that for some people, being subluxations, has resulted in their brain....

- Not controlling their neck muscle function in an ideal way
- Not controlling arm muscles in an ideal way
- Altering body posture
- Reducing the accuracy with which the brain interprets sound and visual information
- Changing communication between different parts of the brain
- Making the brain less accurately aware of what is occurring in the arm
- Reducing the brains ability to accurately mentally rotate items

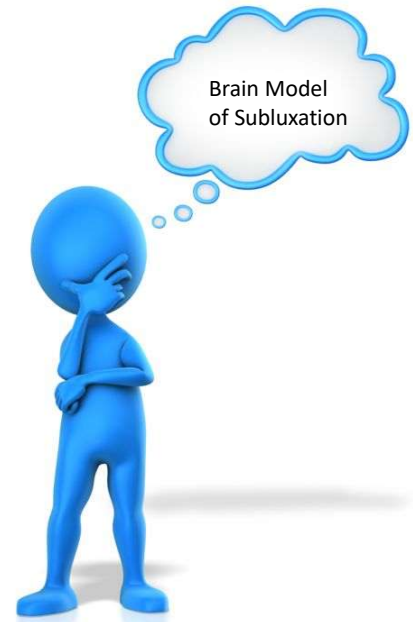
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Implications

- The brain model is FAR MORE impactful than the structural pathology MOPI model ever could be
- Because EVERY adjustment impacts the BRAIN!!! (Prefrontal cortex and Cerebellum)



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How do you
incorporate this new
science into
practice?

 NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF
CHIROPRACTIC

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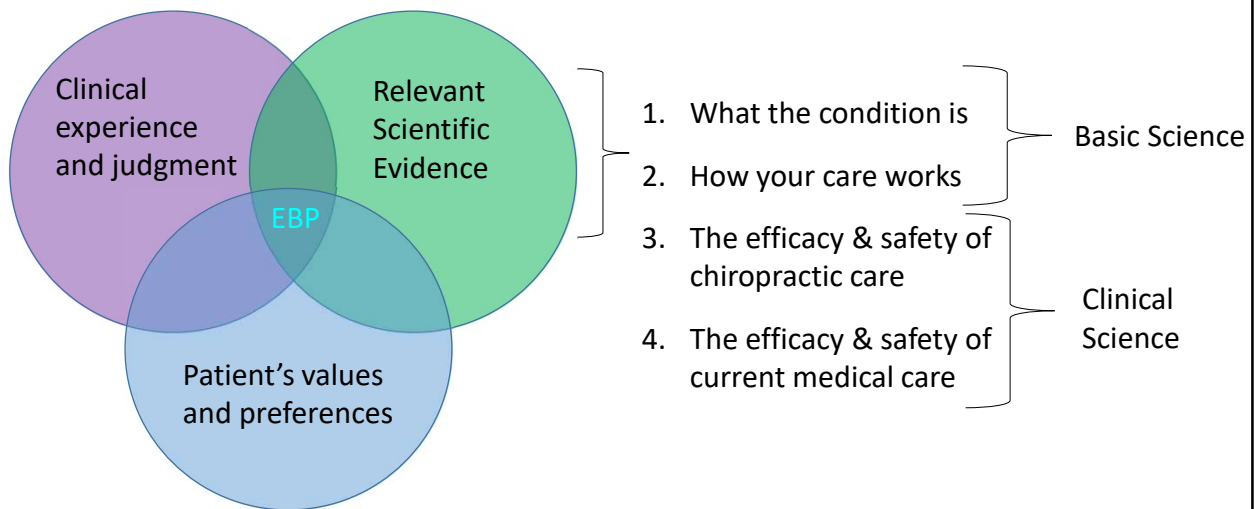
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Patient-Focused, Evidence-Based Practice



Dr David Sackett - The father of evidence-based medicine



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Basic Science

- Mechanisms
- How something works
- What something is
- What happens in the brain after an adjustment

vs

Clinical Science

- What effect an intervention has on a health outcome
- What health benefits there are from an intervention
- How safe is an intervention

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DO YOU OWN YOUR SCIENCE?




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Basic Science


LEVEL 1

For junior chiropractic students or chiropractic assistants who have not yet gained any in-depth knowledge about anatomy, physiology, or pathology.

Learn the facts about why good spinal function is so important, what happens when we adjust the spine, the detrimental impacts of stress and trauma, the important role of brain mal-adaptations in chronic pain, and how chiropractic care can improve strength and alter the prefrontal cortex and cerebellum function.



NOT ENROLLED



8 Lessons

BS1.01 The Many Models of the...

64 Minutes - An introduction into chiropractic neuroscience and the...


Dr Heidi Haavik

0% Complete
0/0 Steps

[See more...](#)

\$24.00

NOT ENROLLED



9 Lessons

BS1.02 The Brain Model of the...

76 Minutes - How a healthy and a dysfunctional spine communicates...


Dr Heidi Haavik

0% Complete
0/0 Steps

[See more...](#)

\$24.00

NOT ENROLLED



11 Lessons

BS1.03 Your first visit to a Chiropractor

45 Minutes - What to expect from your first visit and "what is that..."


Dr Jenna Duehr

0% Complete
0/0 Steps

[See more...](#)

\$24.00

NOT ENROLLED



11 Lessons

BS1.04 Your first adjustment

42 Minutes - What is an adjustment, how does it work and what to expect.


Dr Jenna Duehr

0% Complete
0/0 Steps

[See more...](#)

\$24.00

NOT ENROLLED



13 Lessons

BS1.08 Adjustments Improve Strength

46 Minutes - The effect of chiropractic on muscle strength and the latest...


Dr Jenna Duehr

0% Complete
0/0 Steps

[See more...](#)

\$24.00

NOT ENROLLED



11 Lessons

BS1.09 The Prefrontal Cortex and...

66 Minutes - Chiropractic studies have shown adjustments can change...

Dr Alice Cade


0% Complete
0/0 Steps

[See more...](#)


\$24.00

44

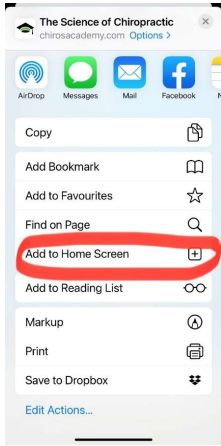
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Click on the up arrow



Click on 'Add to Home Screen'



ChirosAcademy will now appear as an App on your phone!

45




ARE YOU A CONFIDANT COMMUNICATOR?




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Confidence and Clarity

Being able to confidently and clearly articulating a value proposition of chiropractic care impacts:

- Customer engagement
- New patients signing up
- Increased credibility and trust
- Business growth
- Competitive differentiation

Equals a major difference to the success of a small (or big) private practice

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Gives you 50% off

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✓ Over 70 online classes about the science of chiropractic for you!

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✓ Online classes for your chiropractic assistants!

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ChiroAcademy

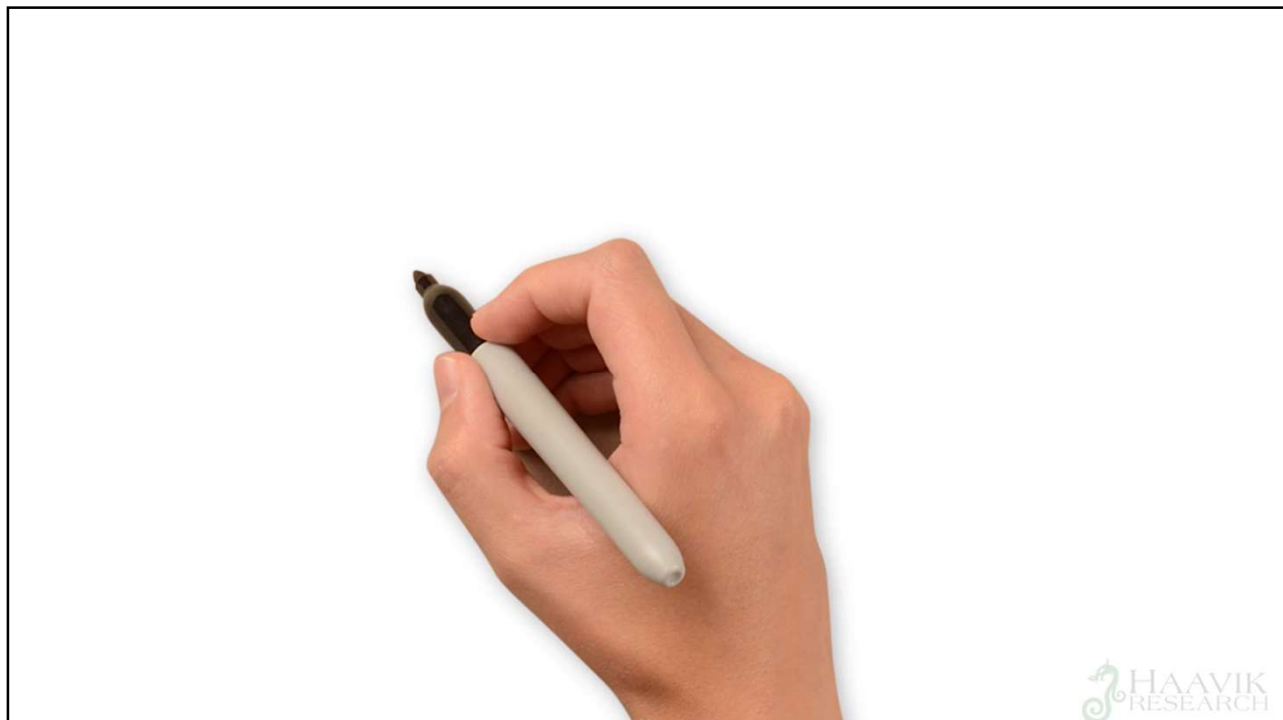
✓ Over 70 online classes about the science of chiropractic for you!



LearningHub

✓ Online classes for your chiropractic assistants!

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Effects of an Adjustment



Did you know that Chiropractors adjust dysfunctional segments in your spine called subluxations?

Recent scientific studies are revealing a new understanding about how chiropractic spinal adjustments work. We know much more about how the brain and the rest of the central nervous system functions.



What is a subluxation?
Originally, many people thought that dysfunctional 'subluxated' spinal segments were 'out of place', or misaligned, and that this put pressure on the nerves exiting the spine. We now know that a vertebral subluxation is not so much the condition of a bone being out of place; it is more that a bone is functioning or moving in a less than ideal way – in a manner that is not 'normal' for the body.

1

Keep your Spine Moving



Did you know that even the ancient Greeks knew that movement and physical exercise was good for your brain?

Modern scientists have shown that movement is one of the keys to promoting a healthy brain.¹ Movement has been shown to help people with dementia, depression, and ADHD.²




Why is spinal movement important?
Scientists now know that it's not just physical exercise that's important for your brain, but how your spine moves is also very important for keeping your brain healthy. It's even been shown to change the structure of your brain and improve your concentration and how fast you can think and react.^{1,3}

1

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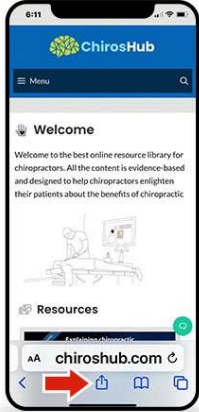
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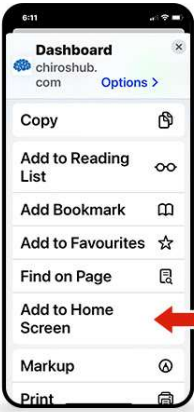
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2



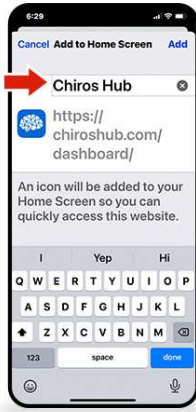
Click on the up arrow

3




Click on 'Add to Home Screen'

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ALL ONLINE

- 20 Steps for chiros
 - <https://chiroacademy.com/the-new-brain-model-2024/>
- 13 Steps for CAs
 - <https://chirolearninghub.com/enlighten-practice-members-2024/>

Plus LIVE DC workshops roughly every second months

- covers live Q&A plus a topic

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Some changes in the brain take longer



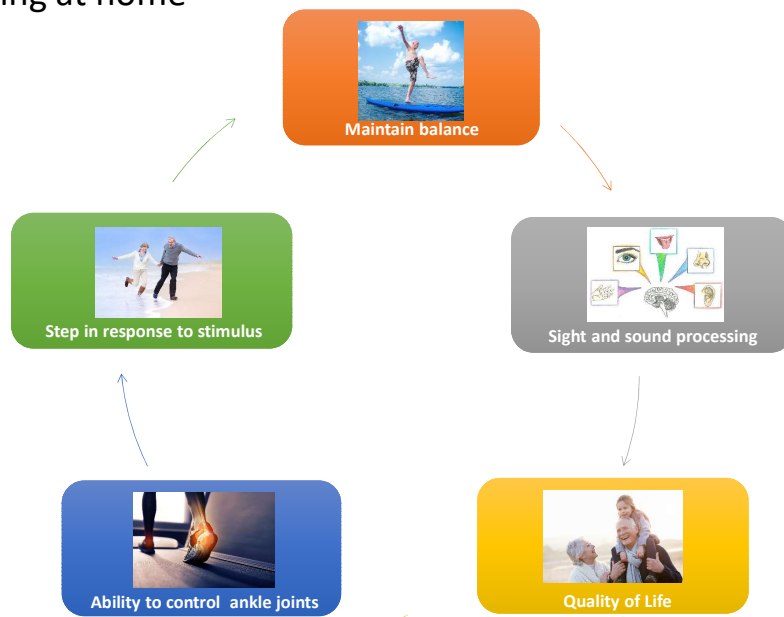
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Holt, K., Haavik, H., Lee, A.C.L., Murphy, B., & Raina Elley, R. (2015) Effectiveness of chiropractic care to improve sensorimotor function associated with falls risk in older people: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*. May;39(4):267-78. doi: 10.1016/j.jmpt.2016.02.003.

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60 older adults living at home

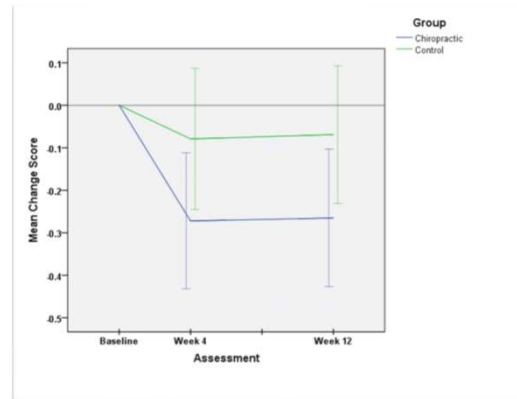
We recorded at:
Baseline
After 4 weeks
After 12 weeks



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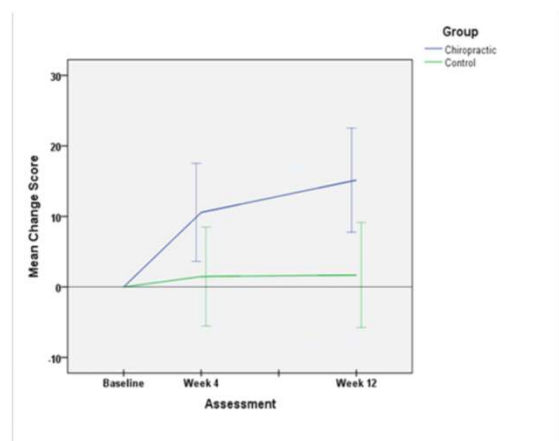
Improved ankle joint position sense



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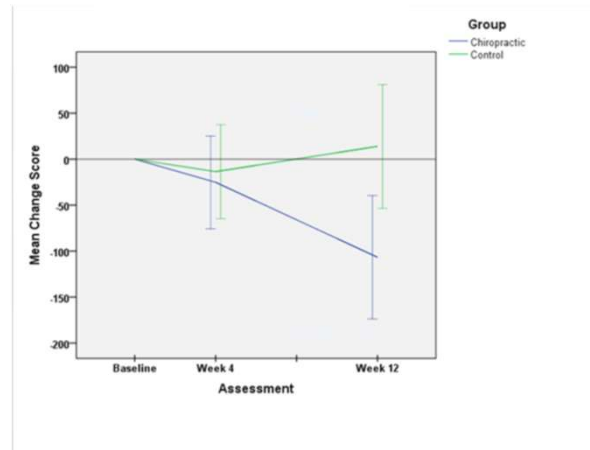
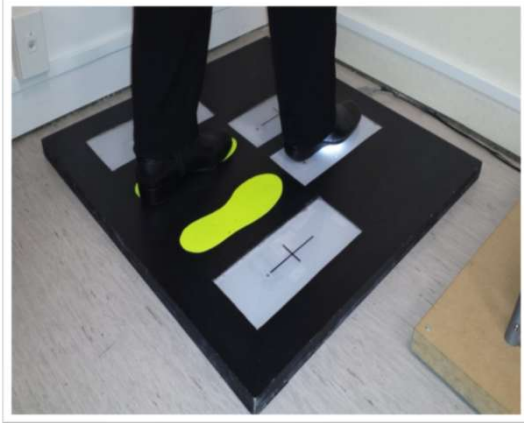
Improved interpretation of sound and visual information at the same time



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Improved stepping times



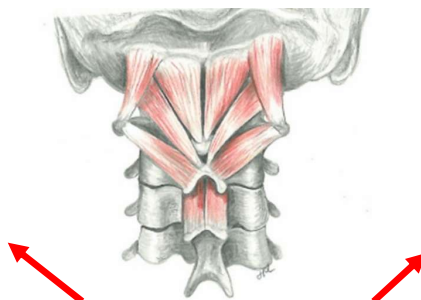
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Why might some changes take time?

Subluxated segment deep paraspinal muscles over time become:

- Stiff and Fibrotic
- Atrophied (shrunk)
- Fatty infiltration
- Change fibre type
- Degeneration around joint
- Stretch receptors dysfunction



From this to this!

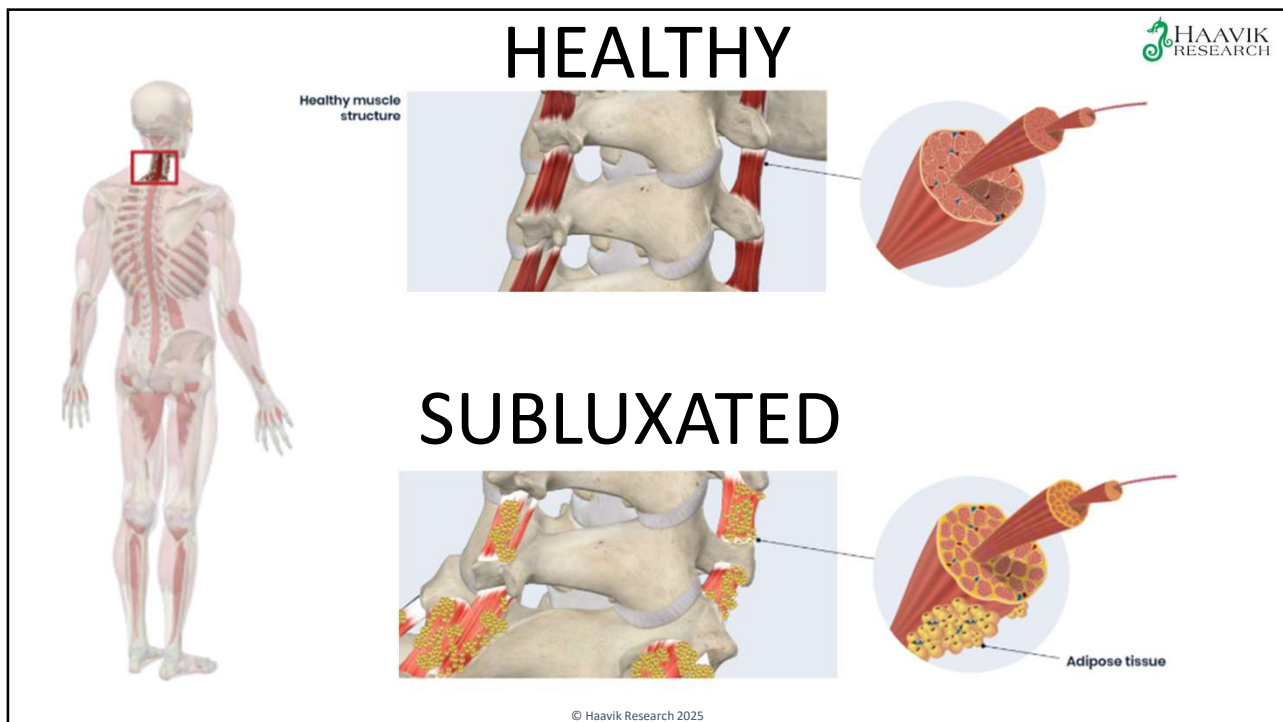
Deep paraspinal muscles around a 'healthy' segment are:

- Plump
- Larger in size
- Slow-twitch fibre type
- No fatty infiltration
- Move freely
- Healthy stretch receptors

Probably because we need to exercise these muscles back into proper function!

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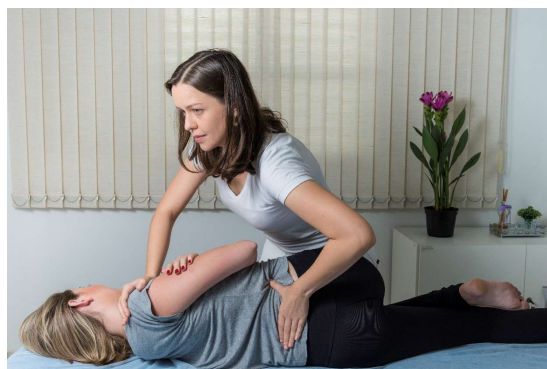
Implications for question answers

- Chiropractors' role is to exercise the spine back into proper function

A blue 3D figure is shown in a thinking pose, with a thought bubble above its head that says "How often do I need to see you?". The Haavik Research logo is in the bottom right corner, and the copyright notice "© Haavik Research 2025" is at the bottom center.

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What does the evidence say about frequency of care?

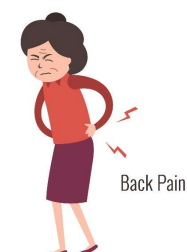


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Dose-Response Low Back Pain (LBP) Study

- 1,2,3, or 4 chiropractic visits per week for three weeks
- 72 patients with chronic LBP
- HVLA spinal manipulation + some other physical modalities
- Relief was substantial for patients receiving care 3 to 4 times per week for three weeks



(Haas et al 2004)

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Follow Up Larger Study

400 patients with
chronic low back
pain

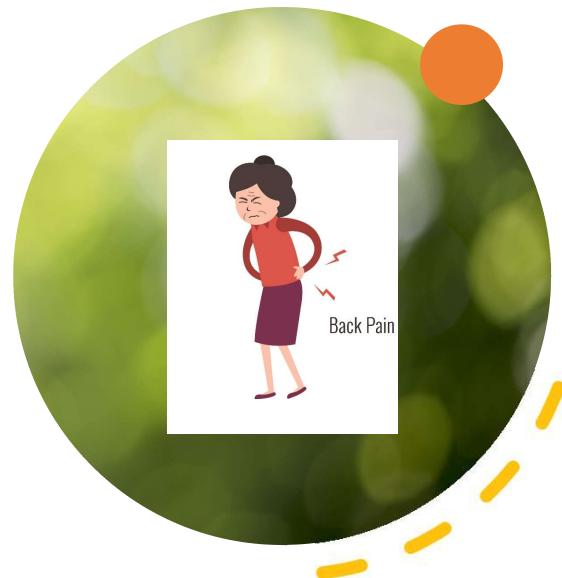
0,6,12, or 18
sessions of SM
over 6 weeks

Pain scores better
in groups getting
adjusted

At 12 weeks- 2x
per week had best
results

At 52 weeks- 3x
week had best
results

Only modest
differences so not
conclusive results



(Haas et al 2014)

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Chronic Cervicogenic Headaches

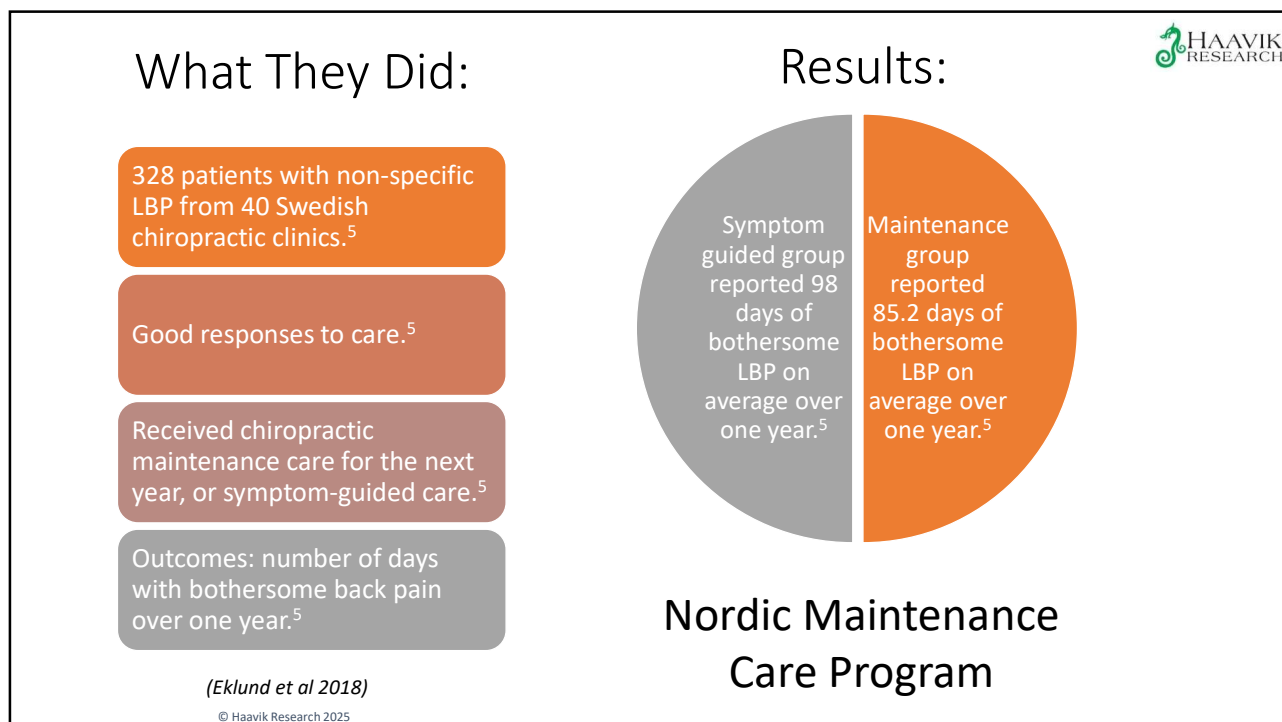
- 256 participants.
- 1, 2, or 3 chiropractic visits per week for six weeks.
- Control group receiving light massage.
- Main outcome assessed of number of headache days at twelve and twenty-four weeks.
- Results:
 - The more adjustment visits, the fewer headache days.




(Haas et al 2018)

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Take-home Message About Maintenance Care

“For patients with recurrent low back pain who respond well to chiropractic care, they should consider getting checked regularly by their chiropractor even if their pain doesn’t come back because it may help them to have fewer days where their backpain interferes with their lives.”

(Eklund et al 2018)

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Summary of Frequency of Care



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Implications for question answers


- Chiropractors' role is to exercise the spine back into proper function
- Science shows it's better for you to see me more often early on in care, and this even gives you long term benefits (CGHAs and LBP)
- Science shows maintenance care gives you less days of pain compared to coming back only when it hurts



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How often should you visit a Chiropractor?




When you first see your chiropractor, you will probably ask "how often do I need to come?"

Often the answer people want to hear is 'once' but chiropractic care, like most things that are really good for us, rarely makes a long-term difference to your health and wellness after just one visit.

The 1,000th straw that breaks the camel's back

A problem can build up day after day as you sit hunched over your desk, or bend and twist as you lift, or tense up as you deal with your daily stress, and then one day, you bend to tie your shoelaces and all of a sudden something hurts! You can rest assured that tying your shoelaces isn't what caused the problem - it's simply the thousandth straw that broke the camel's back (or was too much for your back) and that's why you're in pain.

Maintenance Care



Did you know that 50% of patients visit a chiropractor simply to maintain their health and well-being!

Lato - Light Aenean ac tincidunt lectus, eu facilisis leo. Donec sodales libero sit amet lacus ornare feugiat. Nulla gravida a lectus vitae efficitur.

What is maintenance care?

Maintenance care is when patients go to a chiropractor even when they are not in pain or discomfort. The idea with maintenance care is that regular adjustments will help maintain your spine and nervous system function at its optimal level and help you to be your best and to prevent new episodes of pain developing.

71

Chiropractic & Pregnancy



Effects of an Adjustment



Did you know that Chiropractors adjust discs segments in your spine called...

Recent scientific studies show that chiropractic spinal adjustments and the rest of...

What is a...

Originally, many people were told that physical therapy was the only way to fix the spine. The new idea of a home living and a less than ideal way - a...

Chiropractic Care and Breastfeeding



Did you know that only one week only...

...breastfed at birth, but after...

Healthy Ageing



With the decline in nervous system function from ageing, many older adults experience an increased rate of falls.

Infantile Colic



Did you know that colic in infants can lead to social disruption and...

Chiropractic Care & Reaction Times



Are you a...

How quickly we react on how fast our brain information, comes...

Why...

One reason is that the brain and the rest of the body are connected by a network of nerves...

Chiropractic Care and Golf



Are you a...

How quickly we react on how fast our brain information, comes...

Why...

One reason is that the brain and the rest of the body are connected by a network of nerves...

Be a game of millimetres. A club head that's angled a few degrees can result in a drive hooking out of bounds.

It results in the divot flying further than the ball, and losing in a playoff.

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How to Implement the Contemporary Brain Model of Chiropractic Care into Practice



Heidi Haavik BSc (chiropractic), PhD
VP Research, Dean Research
New Zealand College of Chiropractic


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heidihaavik.com




The **HANDOUT** for today's Class (the slides)

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The power of a single adjustment session



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Strength Changes with chiropractic adjustments

Exp Brain Res
DOI 10.1007/s00221-014-4193-5


RESEARCH ARTICLE

Changes in H-reflex and V-waves following spinal manipulation

Imran Khan Niazi · Kemal S. Türker · Stanley Flavel ·
Mat Kinget · Jens Duehr · Heidi Haavik

Received: 14 May 2014 / Accepted: 22 December 2014
© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2015

Abstract This study investigates whether spinal manipulation leads to neural plastic changes involving cortical drive and the H-reflex pathway. Soleus evoked V-wave, H-reflex, and M-wave recruitment curves and maximum voluntary contraction (MVC) in surface electromyography in afferents. Spinal manipulation appears to prevent fatigue developed during maximal contractions. Spinal manipulation appears to alter the net excitability of the low-threshold motor units, increase cortical drive, and prevent fatigue.



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Niazi et al 2015 Exp Brain Res

76



16% increase in strength
No change H-reflex
Large increase in V wave

Niazi et al 2015. Exp Brain Res



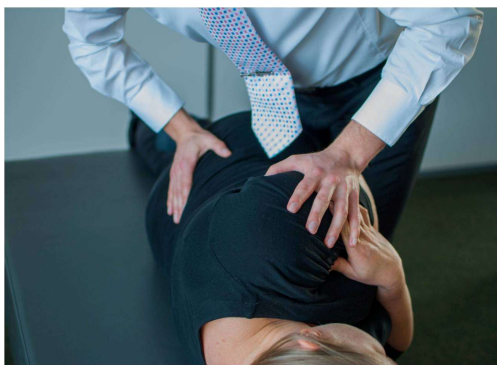
6% increase in strength
No change H-reflex
Large increase in V wave

Christiansen et al 2018 *European Journal of Applied Physiology*

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77

One adjustment vs 3 weeks of strength training



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Niazi I, Türker K, Flavel S, Kinget M, Duehr J, Haavik H. Changes in H-reflex and V waves following spinal manipulation. *Exp Brain Res.* 2015;233:1165-73. Vila-Chã C, Falla D, Correia MV, Farina D. Changes in H reflex and V wave following short-term endurance and strength training. *Journal of Applied Physiology.* 2012;112(1):54-63.

78

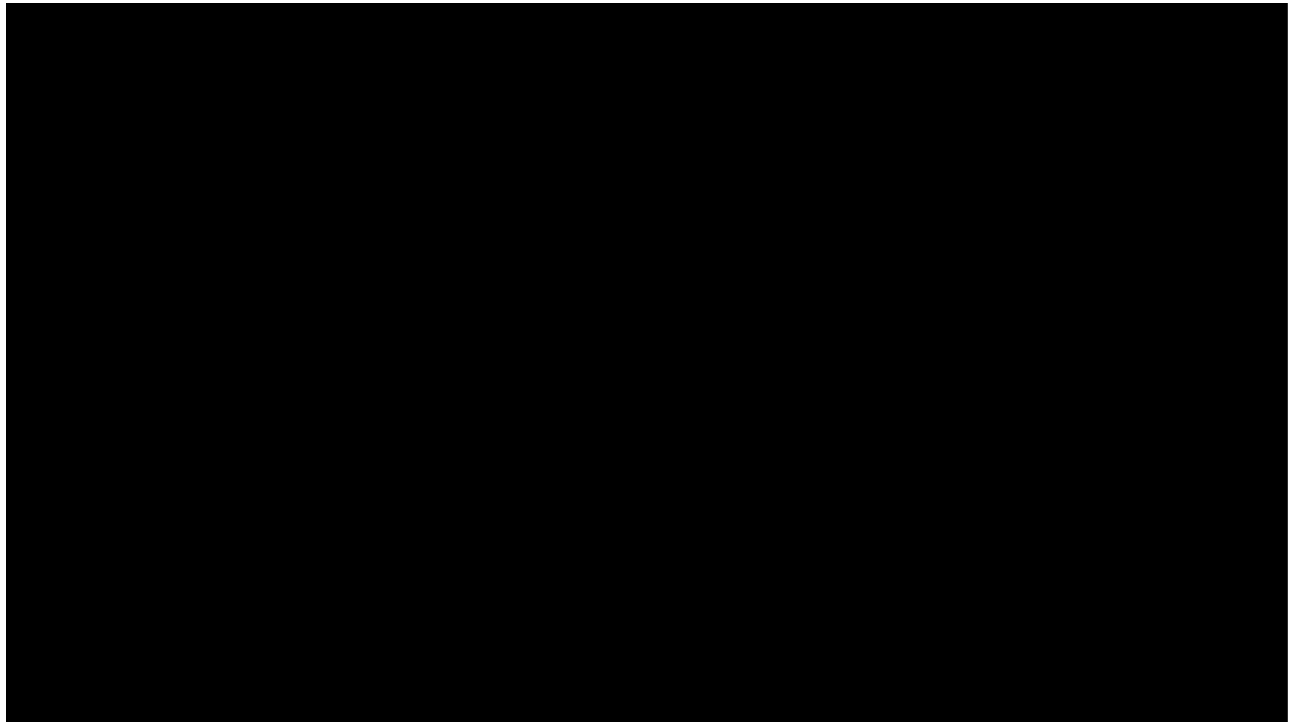


ARE YOU A CONFIDANT COMMUNICATOR?












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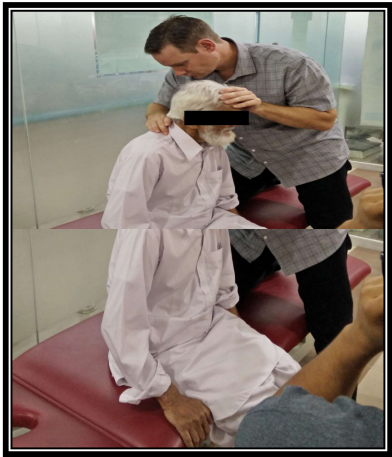
79



80



First Chronic Stroke Study



65% increase in strength
No change H-reflex
Large increase in V wave

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Holt et al 2019 Scientific Reports



Where in the brain do we find changes after chiropractic care?

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83



64 channel EEG and source localisation

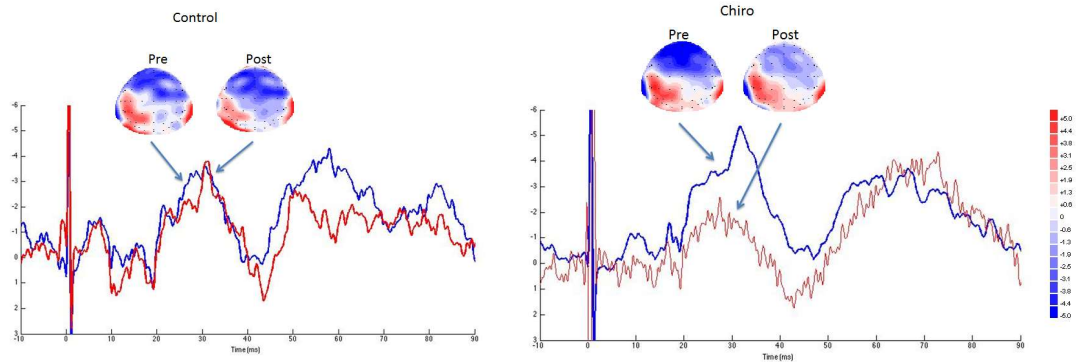


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Lelic, D., Niazi, I.K., Holt, K., Jochumsen, M., Dremstrup, K., Yelder, P., Murphy, B., Drewe, S. A. M., & Haavik, H. (2016). Manipulation of dysfunctional spinal joints affects sensorimotor integration in the prefrontal cortex: A brain source localization study. *Neural Plasticity*, 1. doi:10.1155/2016/3704964.

84

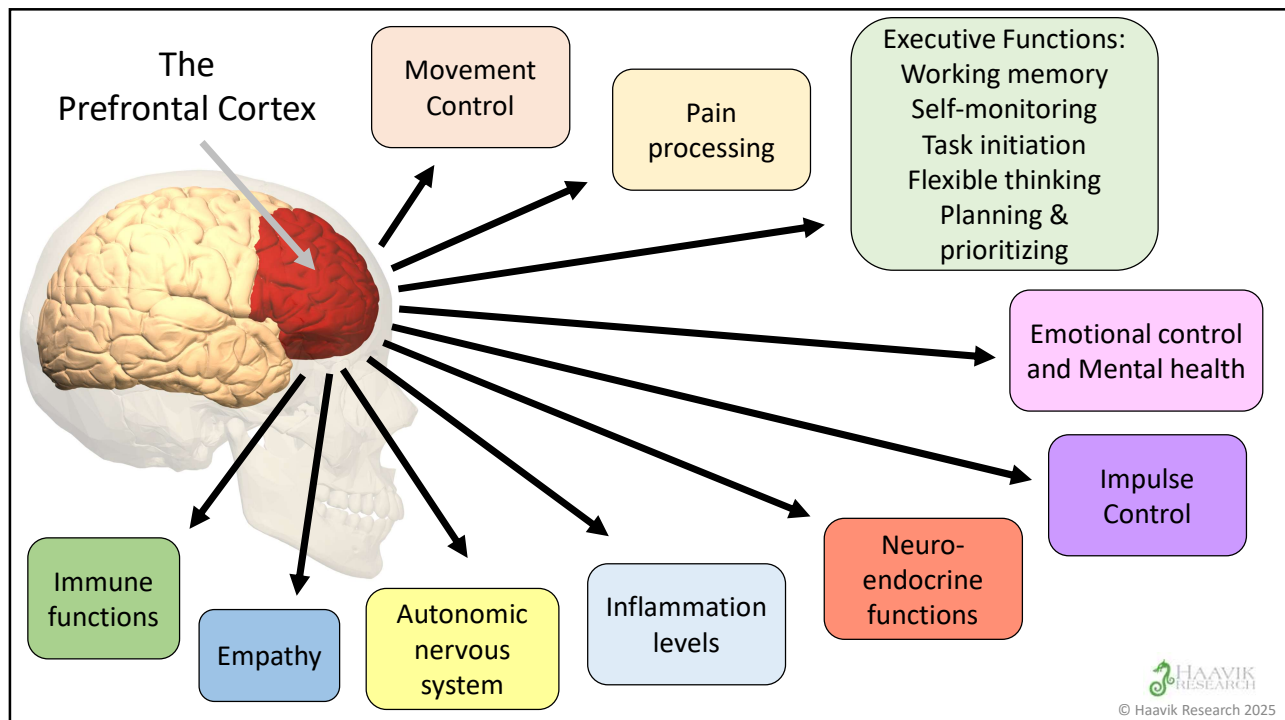
N30 brain processing changes were occurring in the Pre-Frontal Cortex



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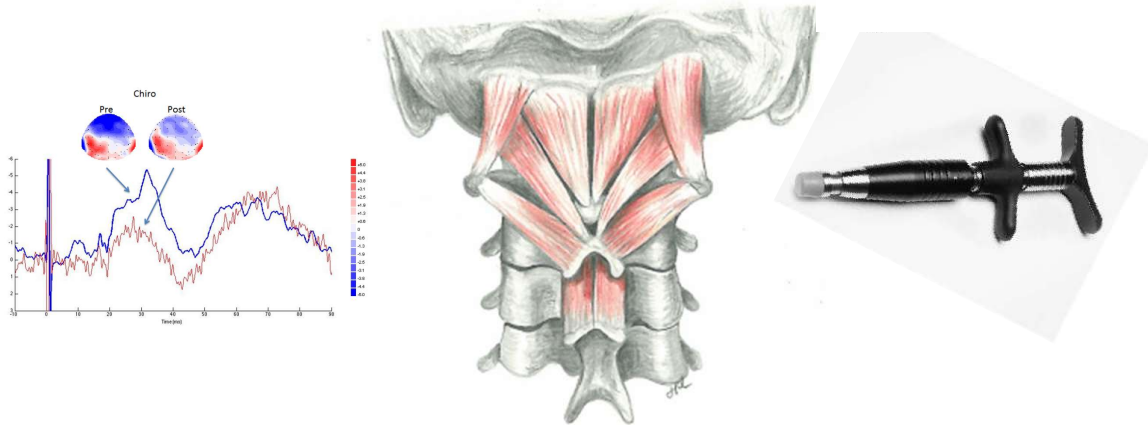
Lelic, D., Niazi, I.K., Holt, K., Jochumsen, M., Dremstrup, K., Yelder, P., Murphy, B., Drewes A. M., & Haavik, H. (2016). Manipulation of dysfunctional spinal joints affects sensorimotor integration in the prefrontal cortex: A brain source localization study. *Neural Plasticity*, 1. doi:10.1155/2016/3704964.

85



86

Does specificity matter?



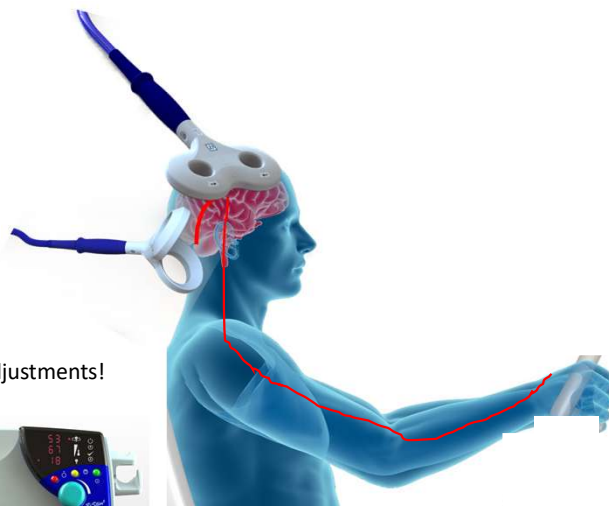
© Haavik Research 2025

Niazi, et al. 2024 Scientific Report. 14(1), p.1159.

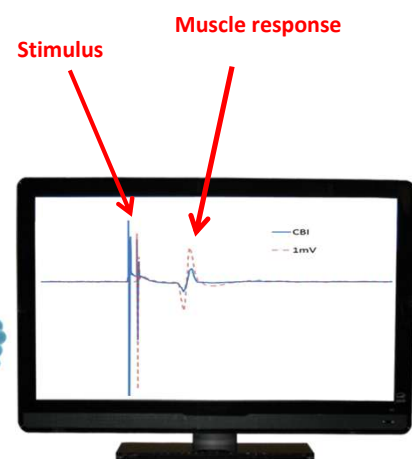
87

Cerebellum- M1 Inhibition with TMS

SCNP have poor CBI
Increase CBI after adjustments!

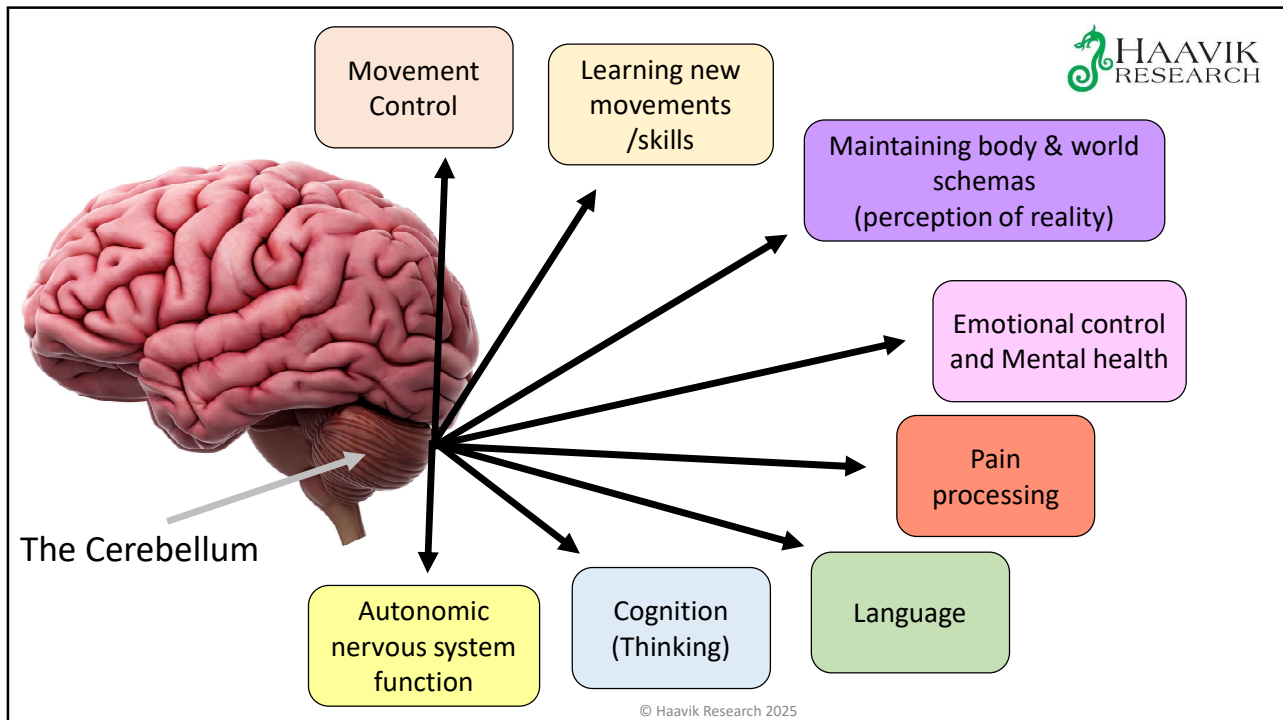


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Baarbé, J.K., Yelder, P., Haavik, H., Holmes M.W.R., Murphy, B. (2018) Subclinical recurrent neck pain and its treatment impacts motor training-induced plasticity of the cerebellum and motor cortex. Plos One. 2018;13(2):e0193413. Daligadu, Haavik, Yelder, Baarbé & Murphy (2013) Alterations in cortical and cerebellar motor processing in SCNP following spinal manipulation. JMPT. 36:527-537

88



89

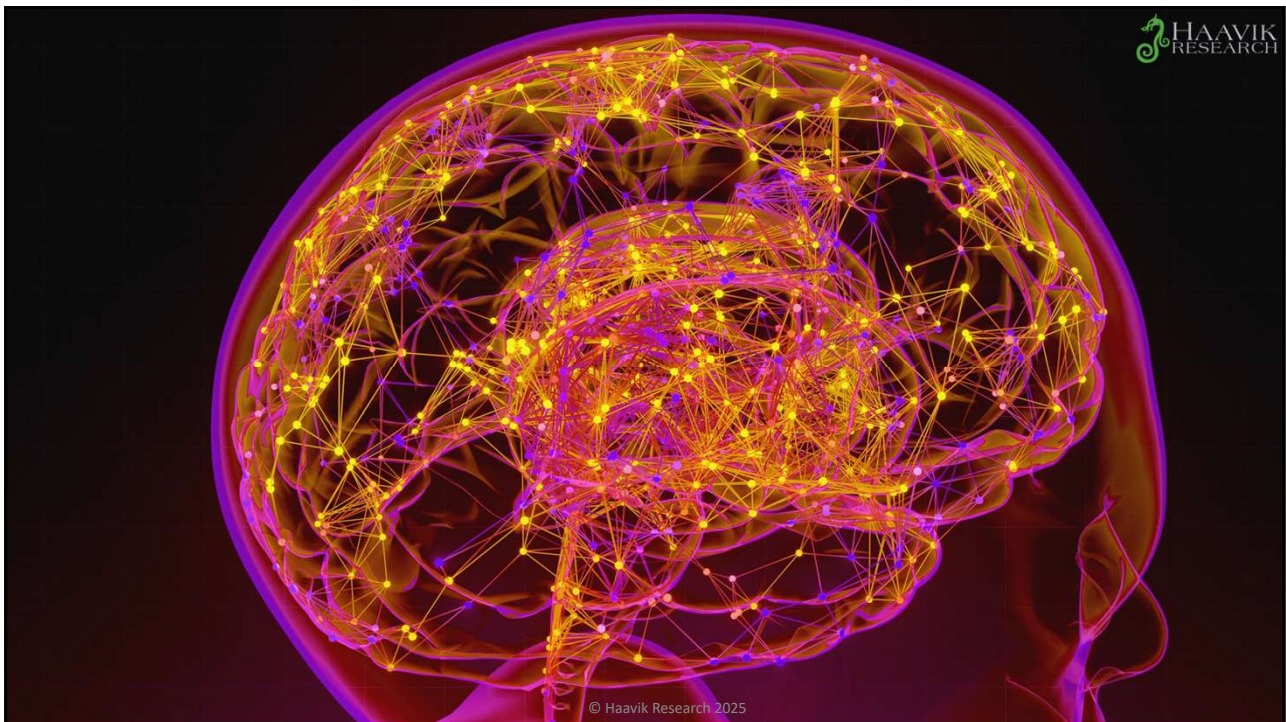
Biological Networks in the Brain (and Hubs)

- A biological neural network in the brain is a complex network of neurons that are chemically connected by synapses.
- Neurons send and receive electrochemical signals to each other, and the brain uses these signals to process information.

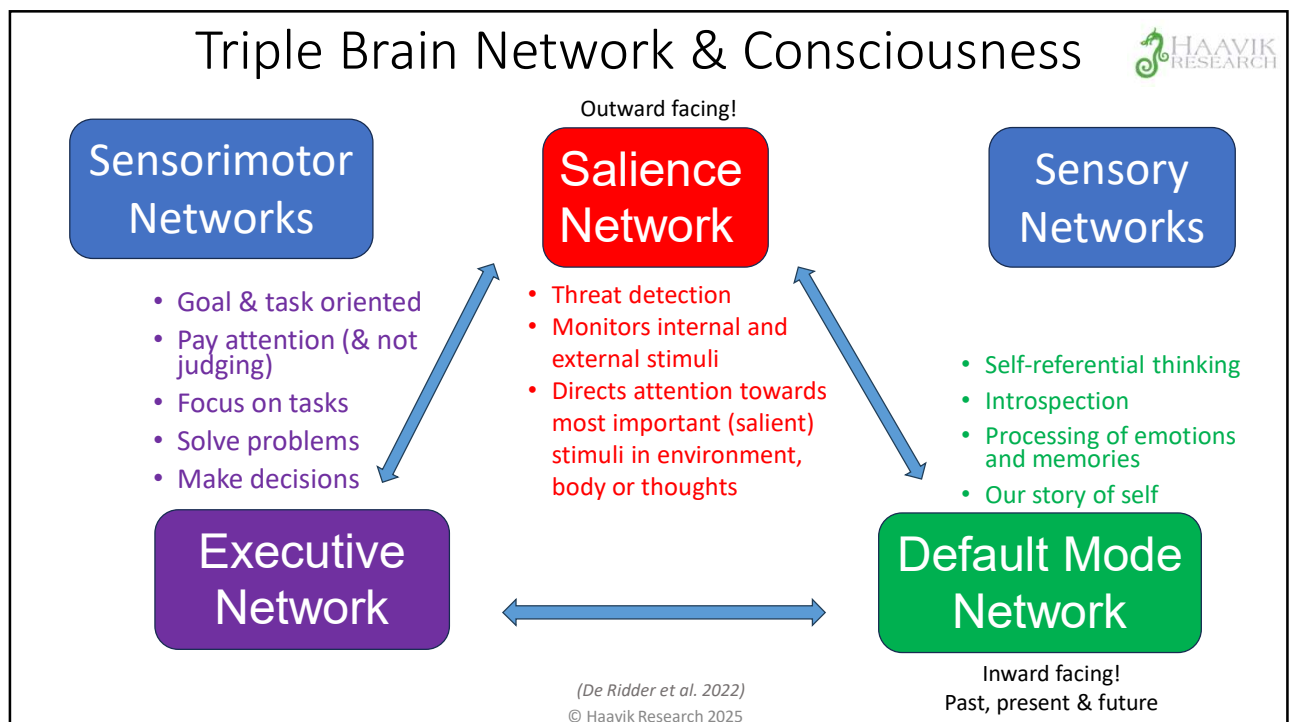
The diagram shows a lateral view of the brain with three distinct clusters of neurons highlighted in colored circles: blue (top), green (bottom left), and orange (bottom right). These clusters are interconnected by red lines, representing the complex network of neurons and their connections (synapses).

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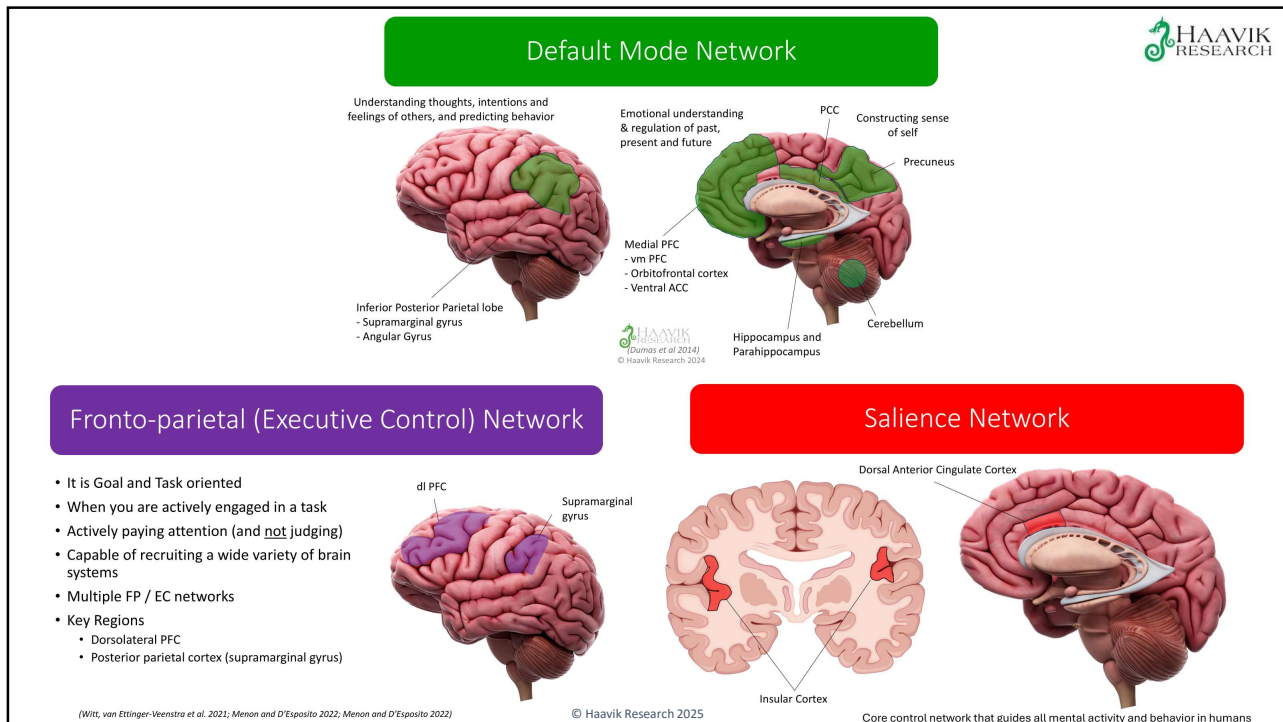
90



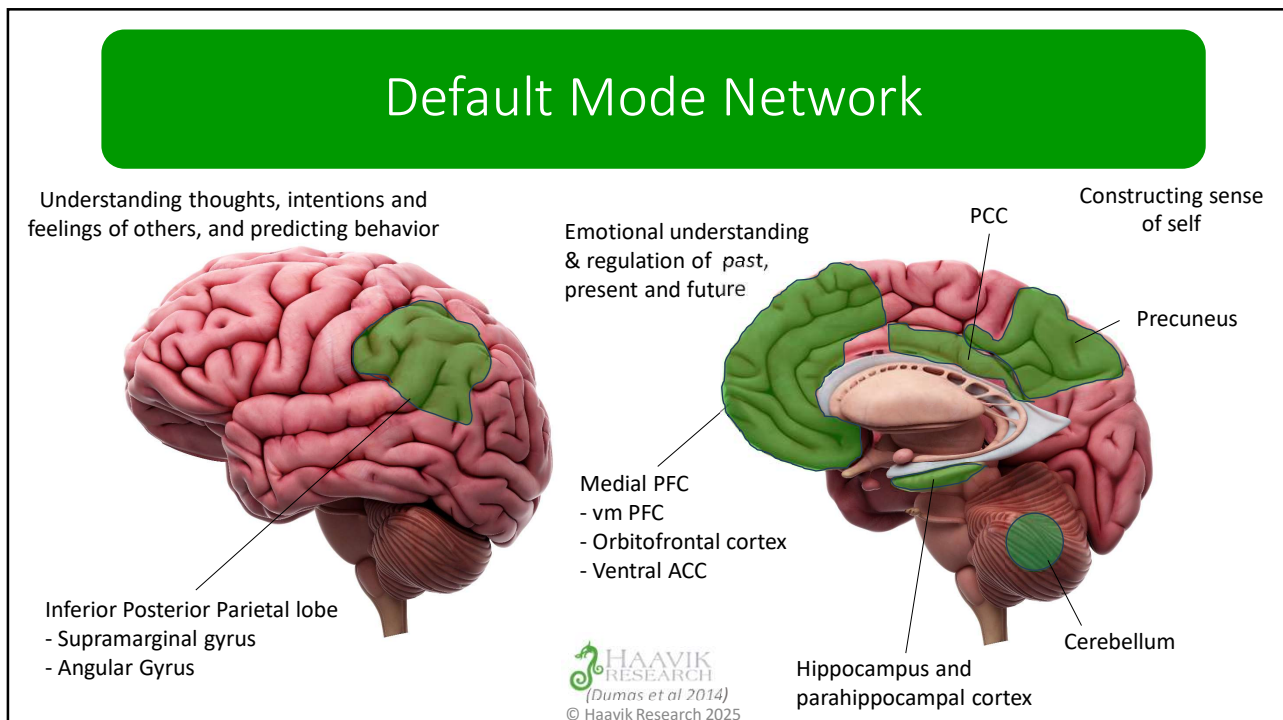
91



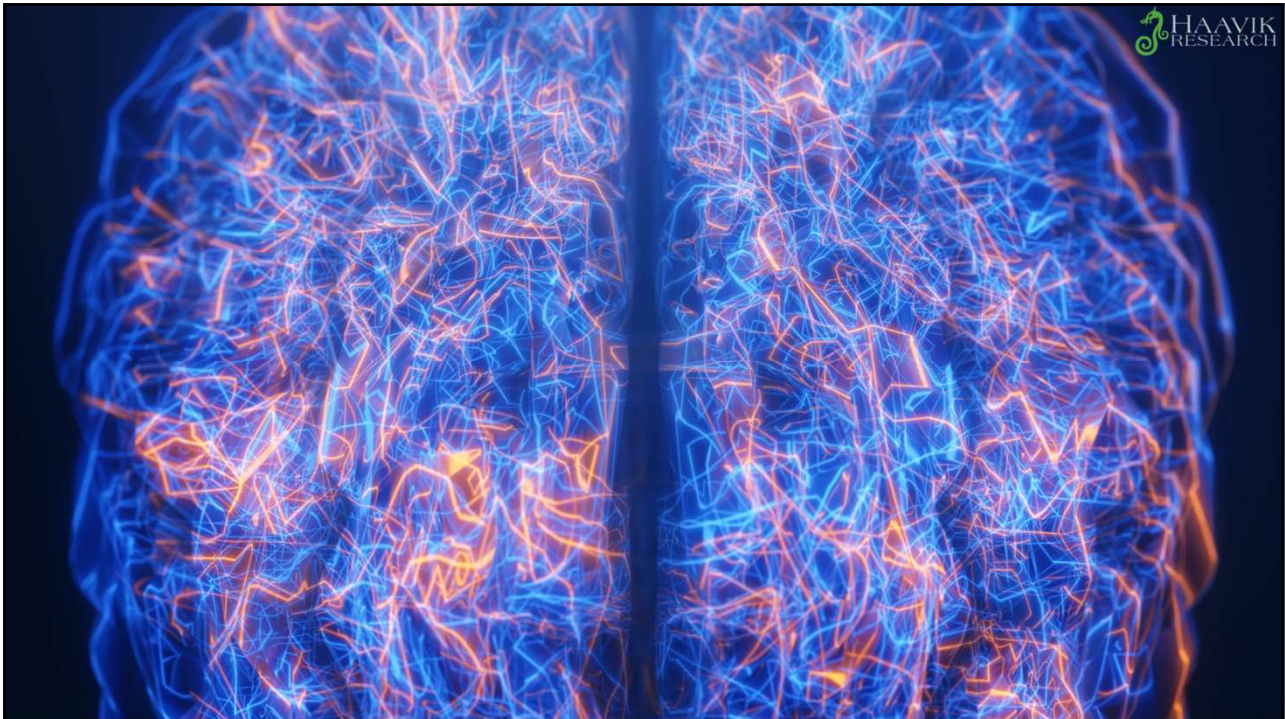
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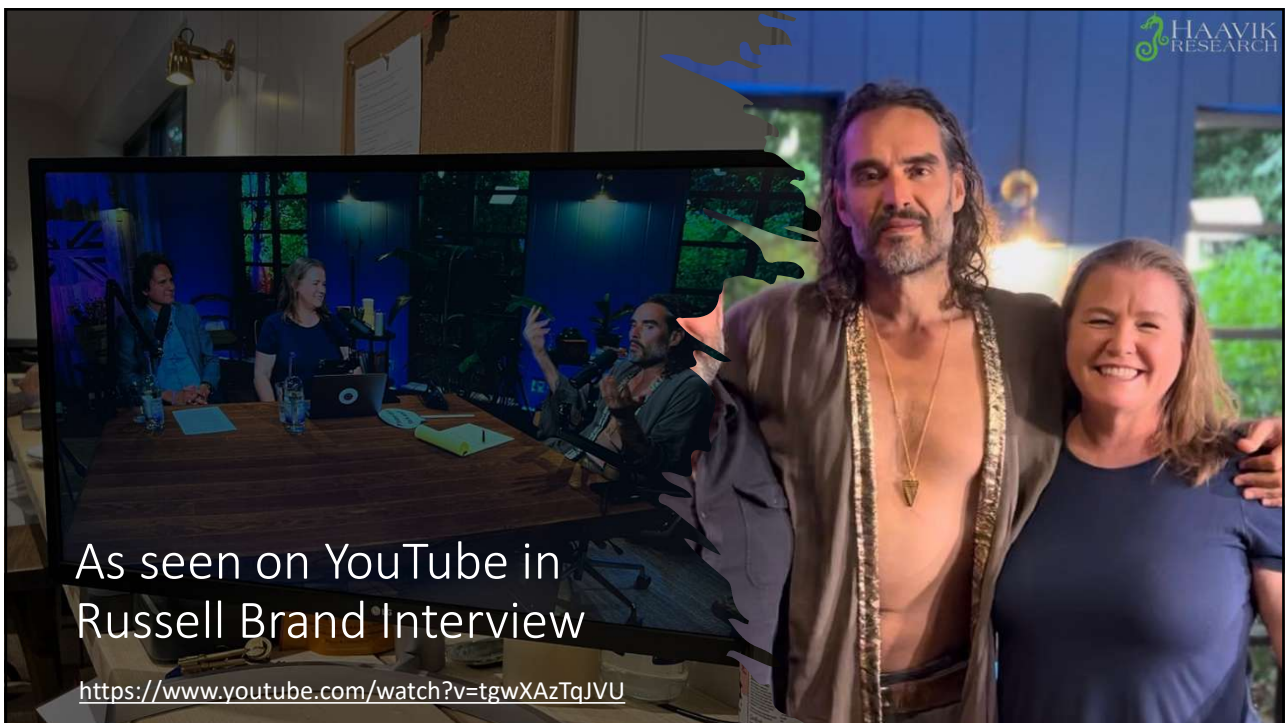
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94



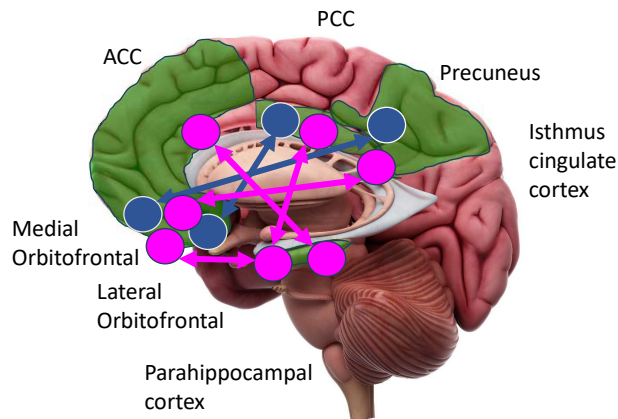
95



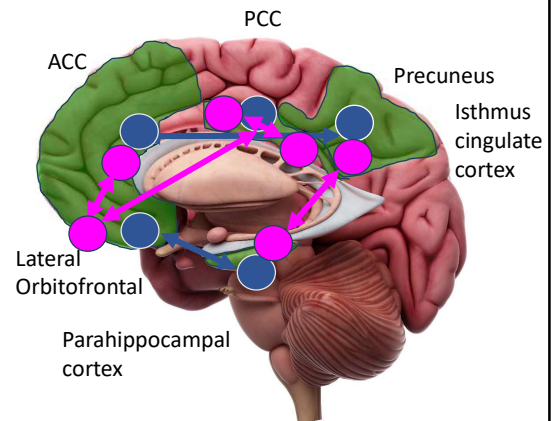
96

DMN changes after Chiro Care

Pre and Post Chiro



Pre and Post 4 weeks Chiro



(Haavik et al 2024, Brain Sciences)
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Questionnaire Results

Control Group

NO significant changes at all

Chiropractic Group

- Improved QOL overall
- Improved Physical function
- Less Depression
- Less anxiety
- Less Fatigue
- Less pain interference
- Less pain intensity



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Unmedicated depressed people have significantly increased functional connectivity between the **Precuneus** and the **prefrontal cortex**

Increased functional connectivity of the **posterior cingulate cortex** with the **lateral orbitofrontal cortex** in depression (Cheng, Rolls et al. 2018B)



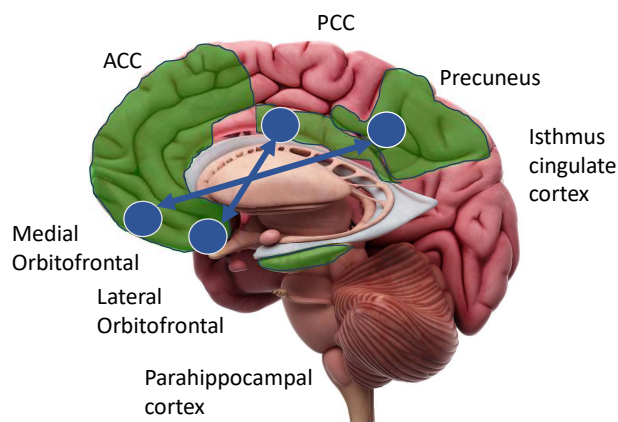
The increased connectivity of the precuneus and/or PCC with the prefrontal cortex short-term memory system may contribute to the rumination about low self-esteem in depression.

(Cheng, et al 2018A; Cheng, Rolls et al. 2018B)

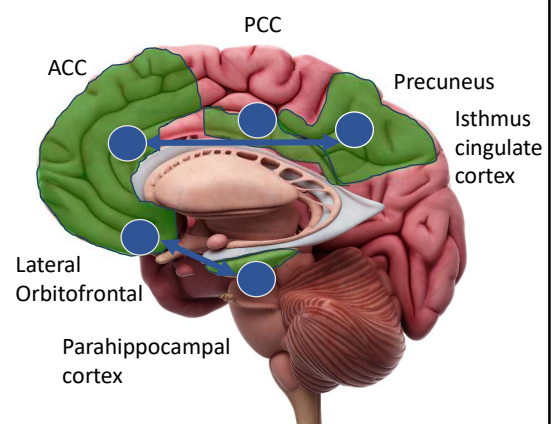
99

DMN changes after Chiro Care

Pre and Post Chiro



Pre and Post 4 weeks Chiro



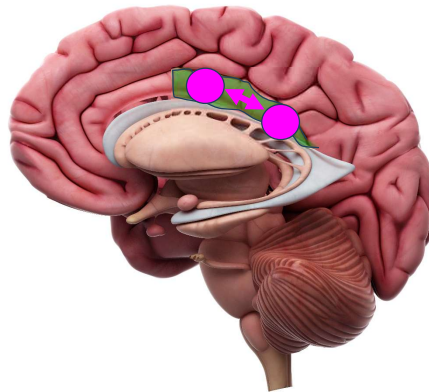
(Haavik et al 2024, Brain Sciences)

100

In depression there is asymmetry in the thickness of Posterior Cingulate Cortex

SEPs Alpha \uparrow L isthmus-cingulate- R PCC

- PCC deals with internally focused, self-referential processing
- I.e. Construction of the narrative sense of self, including autobiographical memories
- Implicated in depression: \uparrow cortical thickness in left vs right PCC
- Depressed individuals with higher somatic symptoms (e.g. sleep disturbance, appetite disturbance, and fatigue or loss of energy) have greater asymmetry in PCC thickness



Thus, this change may reflect altered narrative sense of self in a manner that is reducing symptoms of depression and improvements in fatigue

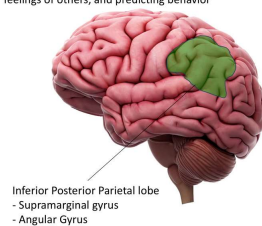
(Haavik et al 2024, Brain Sciences)

(Dotson et al. 2021; van Eijndhoven et al. 2013)

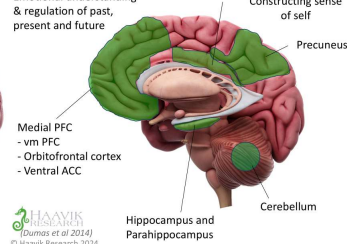
101

Default Mode Network

Understanding thoughts, intentions and feelings of others, and predicting behavior

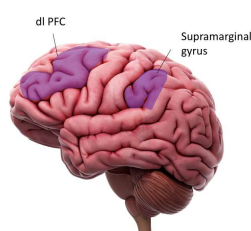


Emotional understanding & regulation of past, present and future

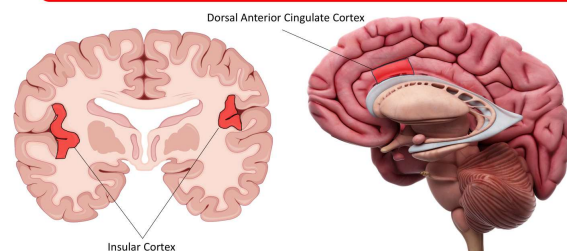


Fronto-parietal (Executive Control) Network

- It is Goal and Task oriented
- When you are actively engaged in a task
- Actively paying attention (and not judging)
- Capable of recruiting a wide variety of brain systems
- Multiple FP / EC networks
- Key Regions
 - Dorsolateral PFC
 - Posterior parietal cortex (supramarginal gyrus)



Salience Network



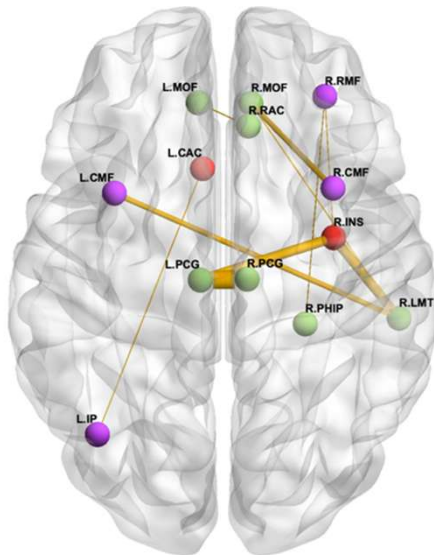
(Witt, van Ettinger-Veenstra et al. 2021; Menon and O'Esposito 2022; Menon and O'Esposito 2022)

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Core control network that guides all mental activity and behavior in humans

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After first Adjustment session Chiro Group



Preliminary
Results NOT
published yet

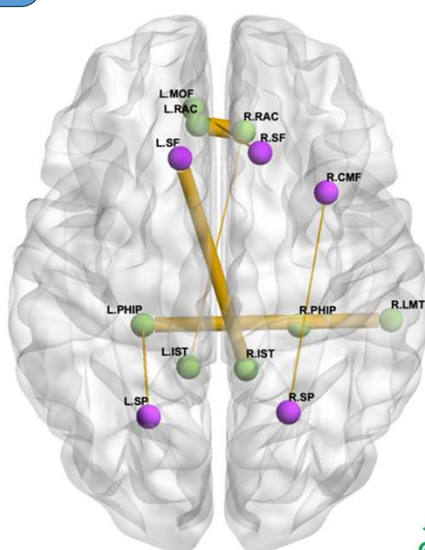
Alpha

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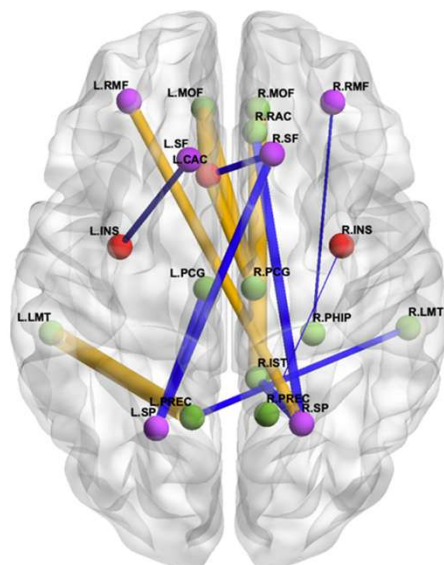
Preliminary
Results NOT
published yet

After 4 weeks Chiro Group Brain changes



Alpha

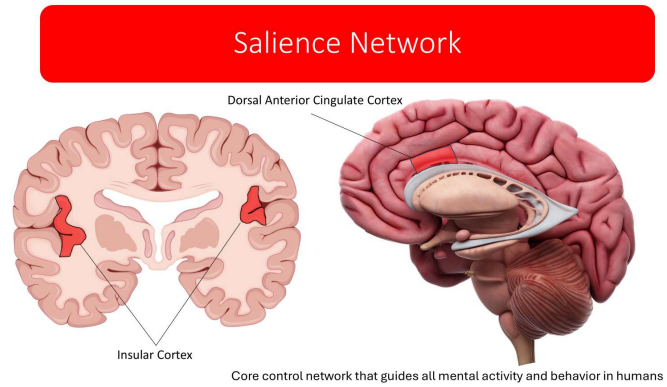
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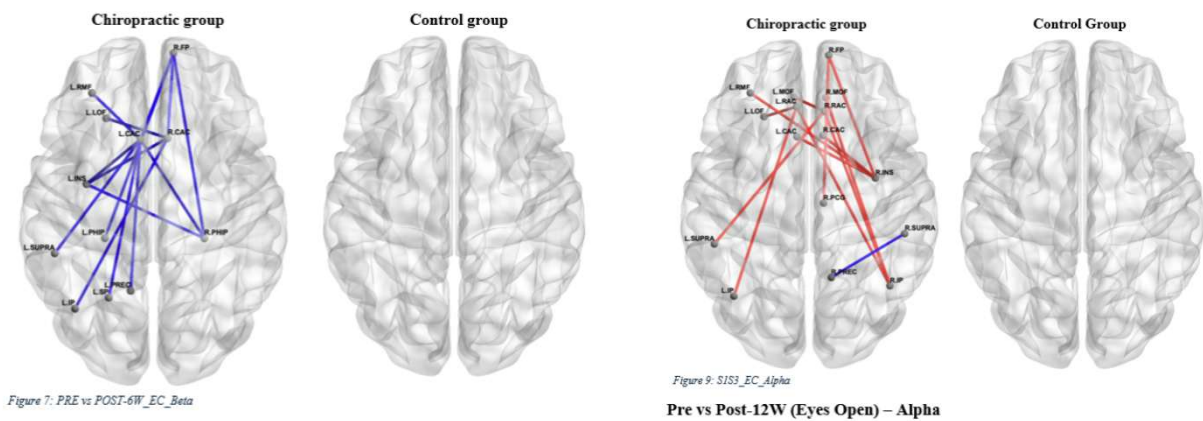
Beta

104

Salience Network
Activation is likely
where the brain
recalibrates after
an adjustment!



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So what about
kid's brains?

- Pakistan RCT in teenagers
- Clinically meaningful (and significant) improvement in Quality of Life

Preliminary
Results NOT
published yet



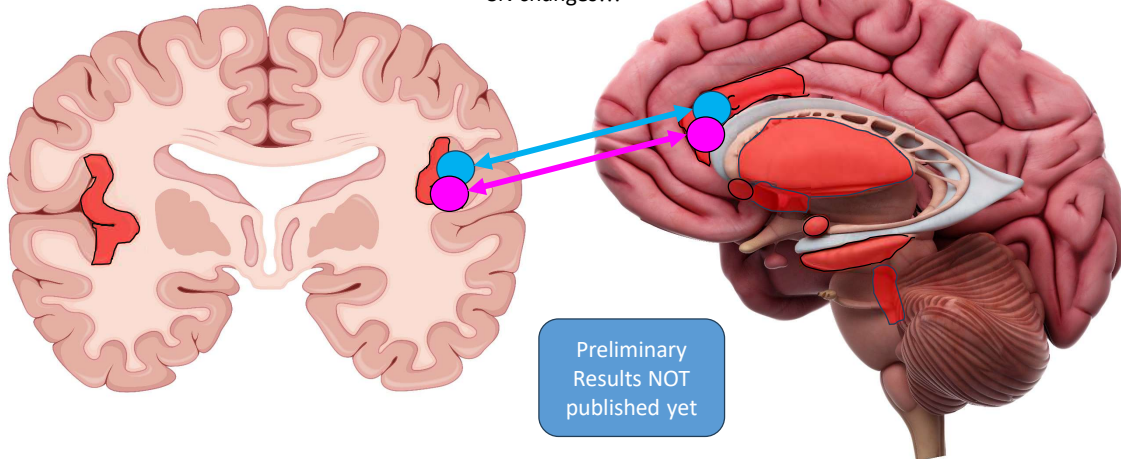
106

Resting EEG results CHIRO Both 6 & 12 weeks

Insular cortex key hub for
Interceptive processing

ACC is vital for recognizing, understanding
and regulating own emotions

SN changes!!!

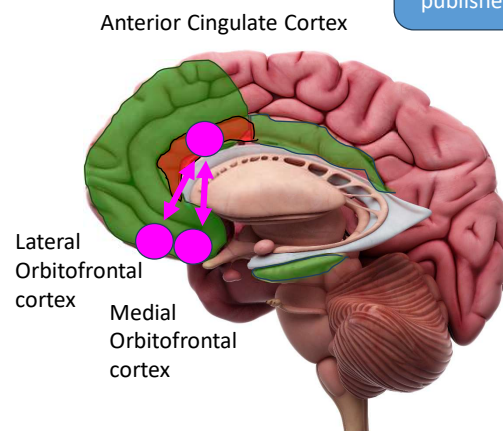


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Resting EEG results CHIRO Pre vs Post 12 weeks

- The Orbitofrontal cortex plays a key role in the executive control of information processing and behavioral expression, decision-making and emotional regulation. It is important for the construction of the narrative sense of self and processing information about own mental states, beliefs, intentions and desires
- The Anterior Cingulate Cortex plays a key role in error detection, cognitive control, emotional regulation and autonomic regulation. It is vital for recognizing, understanding and regulating own emotions.
- May reflects the teenagers' brain's altered processing of interoceptive signals, improving sense of self
- This may support more flexible decision-making and better emotional regulation.
- It could be why they reported improved quality of life.

Preliminary
Results NOT
published yet



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Symptoms don't just appear out of thin air



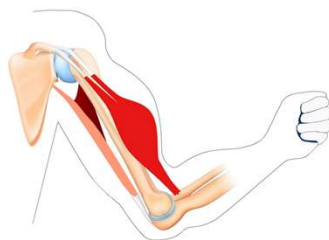
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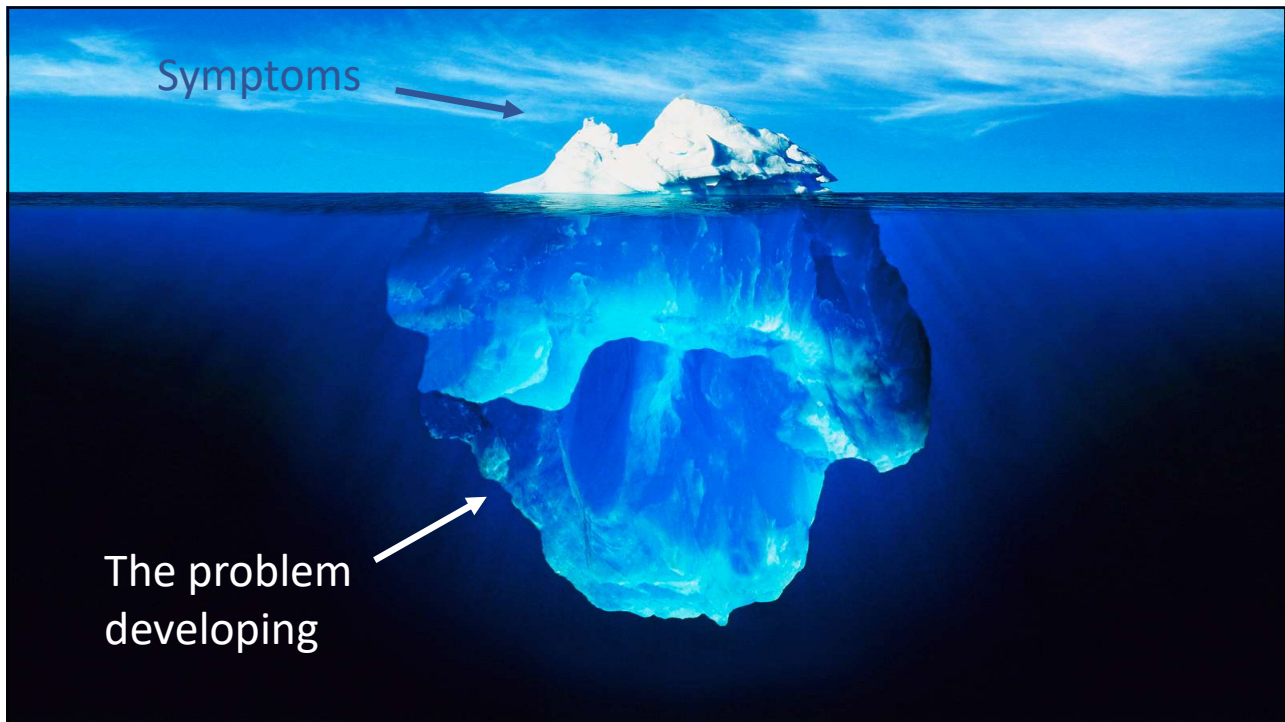
Microtrauma

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111

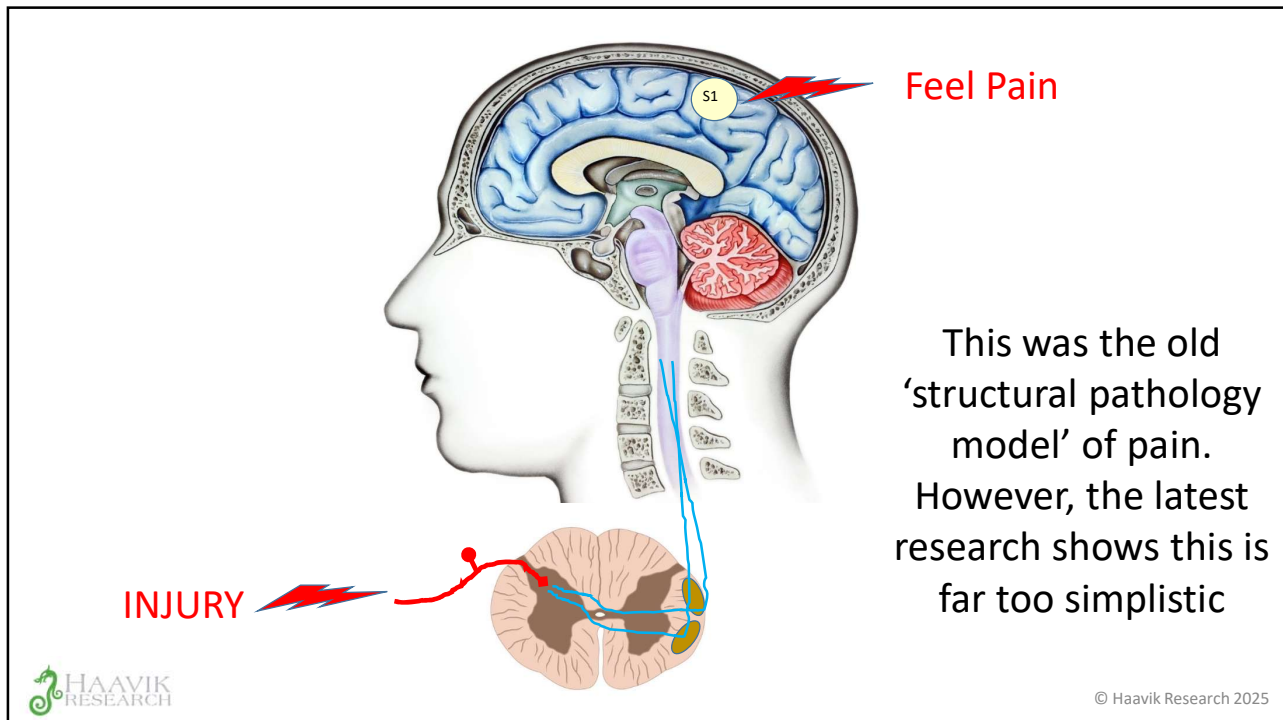
Chronic Pain



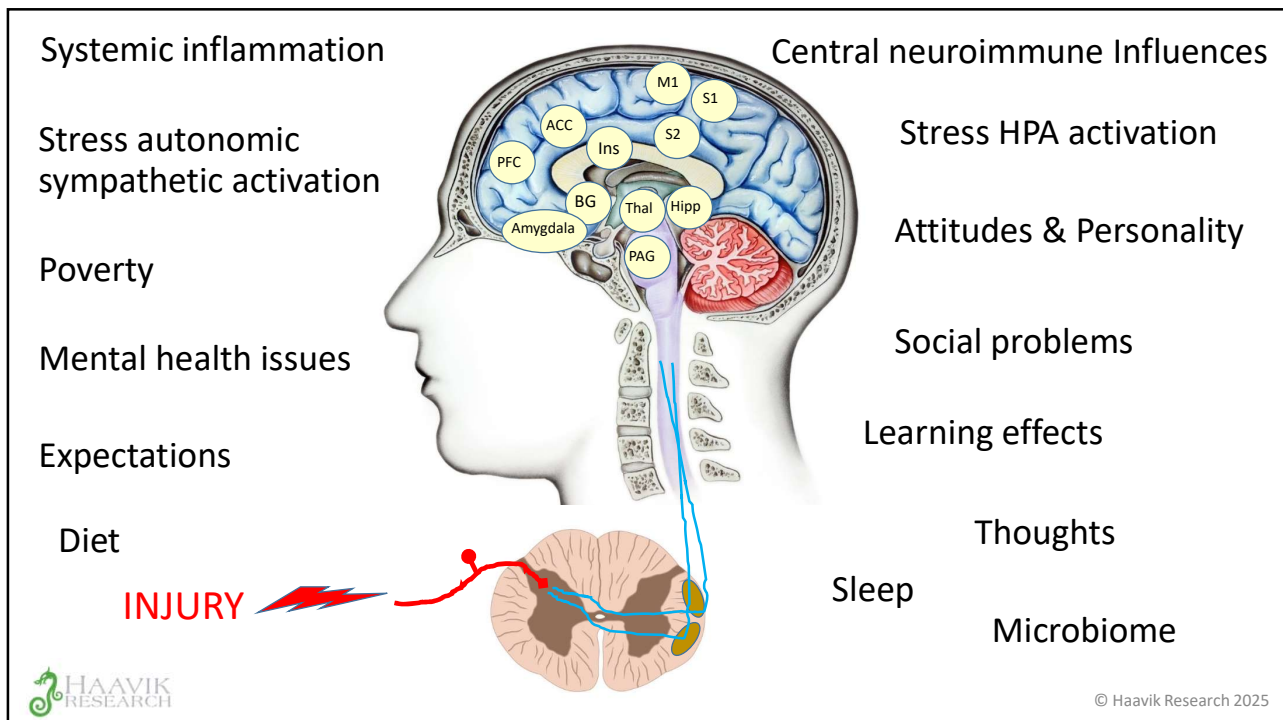
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Apkarian et al. 2011 Pain and the brain: specificity and plasticity of the brain in clinical chronic pain. Pain; May 2008 Chronic pain may change the structure of the brain. Pain; Costigan et al 2009 Neuropathic Pain: A Maladaptive Response of the Nervous System to Damage. Annual Review of Neuroscience.

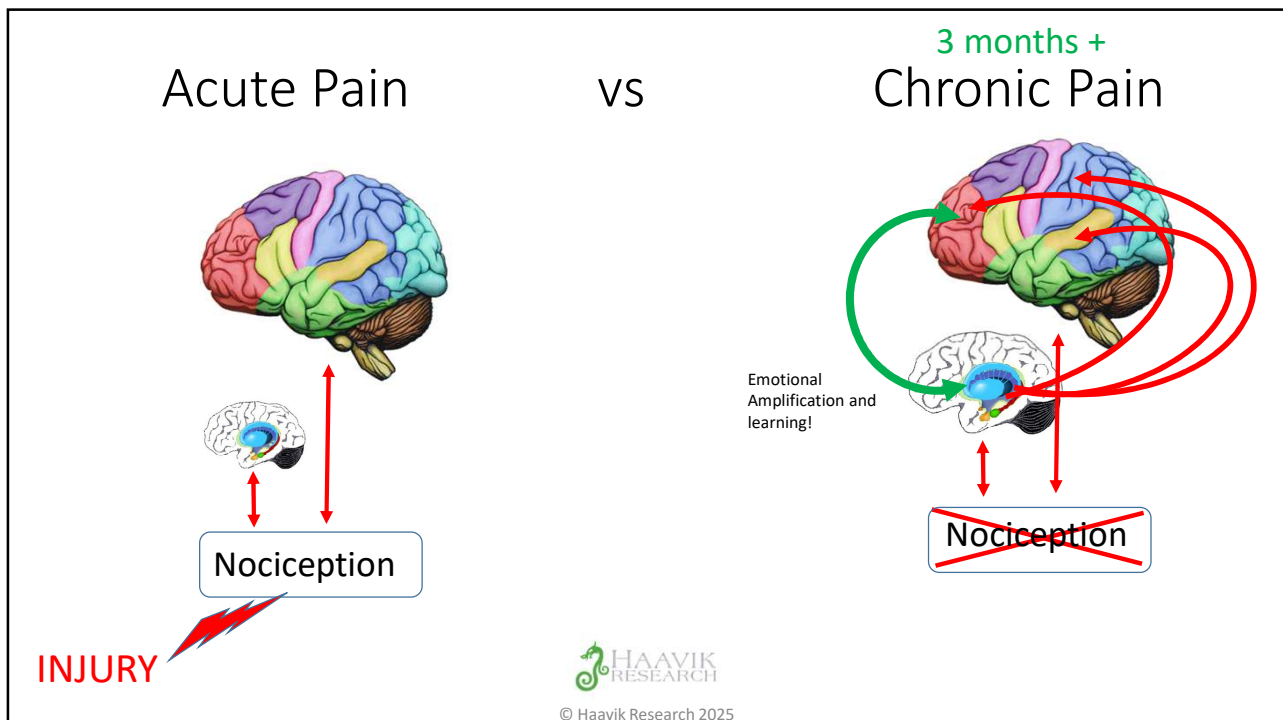
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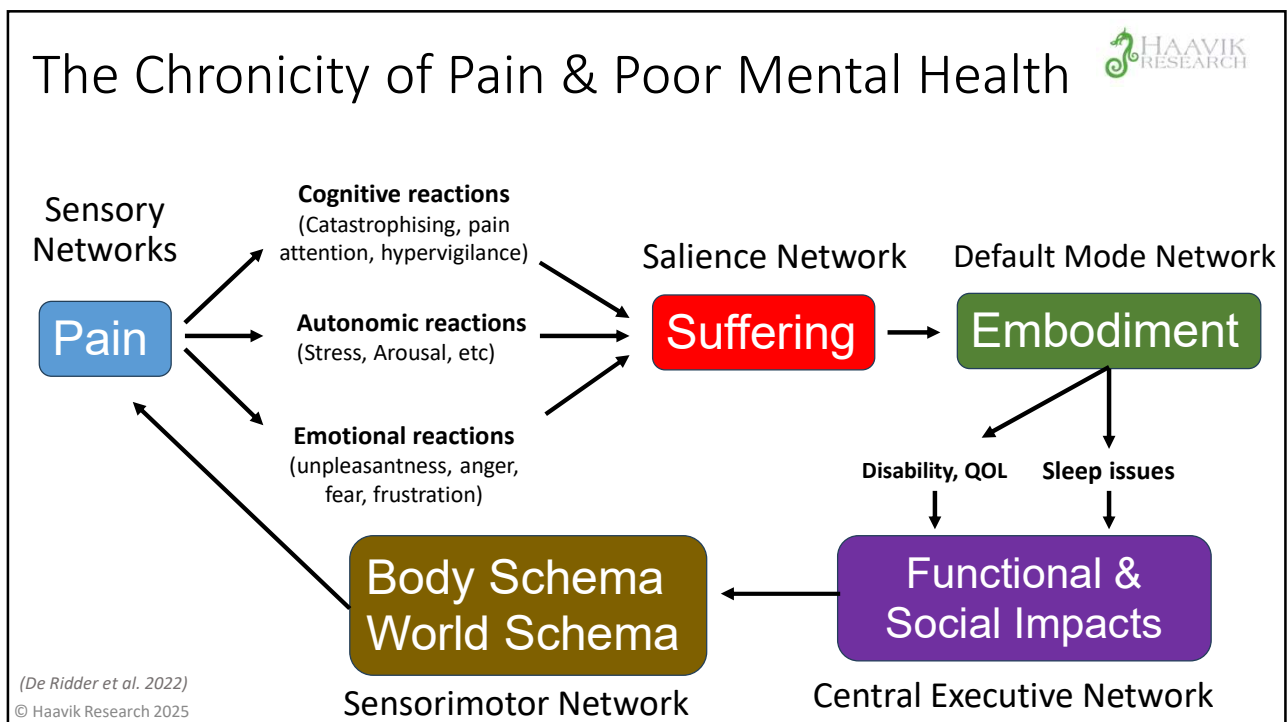
113



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What you tell
your patient
matters!

JOURNAL OF MANUAL & MANIPULATIVE THERAPY, 2017
VOL. 25, NO. 5, 227-234
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10669817.2016.1231860>



The effect of manual therapy and neuroplasticity education on chronic low back pain: a randomized clinical trial

Adriaan Louw^a, Kevin Farrell^b, Merrill Landers^c, Martin Barclay^d, Elise Goodman^b, Jordan Gillund^d, Sara McCaffrey^e and Laura Timmerman^a

^aInternational Spine and Pain Institute, Story City, IA, USA; ^bDepartment of Physical Therapy Education, Residency Program, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA, USA; ^cDepartment of Physical Therapy, School of Allied Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, USA

ABSTRACT

Objective: To determine if a neuroplasticity educational explanation for a manual therapy technique will produce a different outcome compared to a traditional mechanical explanation. **Methods:** Sixty-two patients with chronic low back pain (CLBP) were recruited for the study. Following consent, demographic data were obtained as well as pain ratings for low back pain (LBP) and leg pain (Numeric Pain Rating Scale), disability (Oswestry Disability Index), fear-avoidance (Fear-Avoidance-Beliefs Questionnaire), forward flexion (fingertips-to-floor), and straight leg raise (SLR) (inclinometer). Patients were then randomly allocated to receive one of two explanations (neuroplasticity or mechanical), a manual therapy technique to their lumbar spine, followed by post-intervention measurements of LBP, leg pain, forward flexion, and SLR. **Results:** Sixty-two patients (female 35 [56.5%]), with a mean age of 60.1 years and mean duration of 9.26 years of CLBP participated in the study. There were no statistically significant interactions for LBP ($p = .325$), leg pain ($p = .172$), and trunk flexion ($p = .818$) between the groups, but SLR showed a significant difference in favor of the neuroplasticity explanation ($p = .041$). Additionally, the neuroplasticity group were 7.2 times (95% confidence interval = 1.8–28.6) more likely to improve beyond the MDC on the SLR than participants in the mechanical group. **Discussion:** The results of this study show that a neuroplasticity explanation, compared to a traditional biomechanical explanation, resulted in a measureable difference in SLR in patients with CLBP when receiving manual therapy. Future studies need to explore if the increase in SLR correlated to changes in cortical maps of the low back.

KEYWORDS

Pain; brain; plasticity; education; manual therapy; straight leg raise; remapping

Discussion: The results of this study show that a **neuroplasticity explanation**, compared to a **traditional biomechanical explanation**, resulted in a measureable difference in SLR in patients with CLBP when receiving manual therapy.

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Louw, A., Farrell, K., Landers, M., Barclay, M., Goodman, E., Gillund, J., . . . Timmerman, L. (2017). The effect of manual therapy and neuroplasticity education on chronic low back pain: a randomized clinical trial. *Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy*, 25(5), 227-234.

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Rheumatology 2005;44:509–516

doi:10.1093/rheumatology/keh529

Advance Access publication 11 January 2005



Simulating sensory–motor incongruence in healthy volunteers: implications for a cortical model of pain

C. S. McCabe, R. C. Haigh¹, P. W. Halligan² and D. R. Blake

Objectives. Conflict between motor–sensory central nervous processing has been suggested as one cause of pain in those conditions where a demonstrable or local nociceptive aetiology cannot be convincingly established (e.g. complex regional pain syndrome type I, repetitive strain injury, phantom limb pain and focal hand dystonia). The purpose of this study was to discover whether pain could be induced in pain-free healthy volunteers when this conflict was generated transiently in a laboratory setting.

Methods. Forty-one consecutively recruited healthy adult volunteers without a history of motor or proprioceptive disorders performed a series of bilateral upper and lower limb movements whilst viewing a mirror/whiteboard, which created varied degrees of sensory–motor conflict during congruent/incongruent limb movements. A qualitative method recorded any changes in sensory experience.

Results. Twenty-seven subjects (66%) reported at least one anomalous sensory symptom at some stage in the protocol despite no peripheral nociceptive input. The most frequent symptoms occurred when incongruent movement was performed whilst viewing the reflected limb in the mirror condition, the time of maximum sensory–motor conflict. Symptoms of pain were described as numbness, pins and needles, moderate aching and/or a definite pain. Other sensations included perceived changes in temperature, limb weight, altered body image and disorientation. There were indications that some individuals were more susceptible to symptom generation than others.

Conclusions. Our findings support the hypothesis that motor–sensory conflict can induce pain and sensory disturbances in some normal individuals. We propose that prolonged sensory–motor conflict may induce long-term symptoms in some vulnerable subjects.

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MCCabe et al 2005. Simulating sensory–motor incongruence in healthy volunteers: implications for a cortical model of pain. *Rheumatology*

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Did you know.....

Pain that you have had for more than 3 months means that your brain has learnt to be in pain, and my job is to retrain your brain out of pain. Because we know that the dysfunction of the spine plays a major role in both causing and maintaining these brain changes.

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Implications for question answers

- You do not need to adjust where they hurt, but instead where the subluxation is



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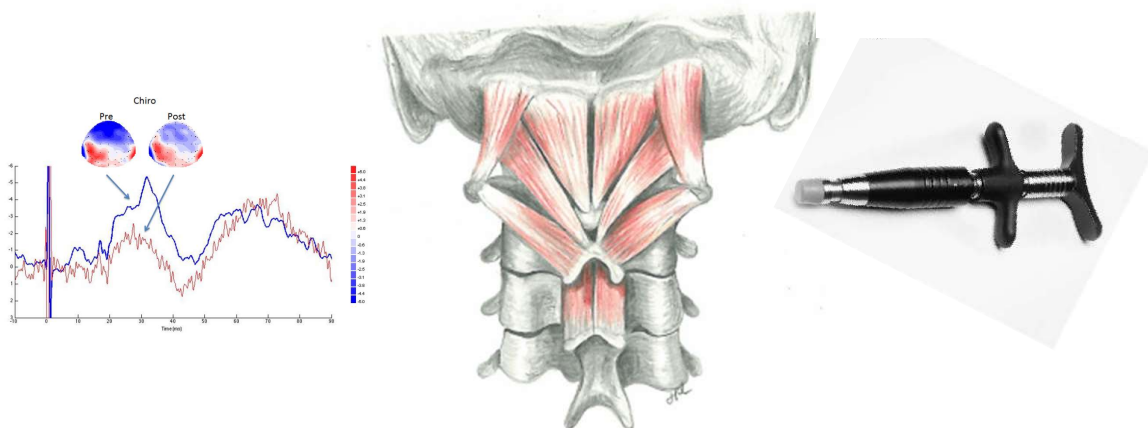
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NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF
CHIROPRACTIC

HAAVIK
RESEARCH

Does specificity matter?



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Imran Khan Niazi, Muhammad Samran Navid, Christopher Merkle, Imran Amjad, Nitika Kumari, Robert J. Trager, Kelly Holt, Heidi Haavik. 2024 A randomized controlled trial comparing different sites of high-velocity low amplitude thrust on sensorimotor integration parameters. *Scientific Report.* 14(1), p.1159.

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Implications for question answers

- Pain is a danger warning system, not necessarily reflective of where the problem is.



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Why is all this important to understand?



Review

The Neuroscientist
1-14

Abstract

Motor control, which relies on constant communication between motor and sensory systems, is crucial for spine posture, stability and movement. Adaptions of motor control occur in low back pain (LBP) while different motor adaption strategies exist across individuals, probably to reduce LBP and risk of injury. However, in some individuals with LBP, adapted motor control strategies might have long-term consequences, such as increased spinal loading that has been linked with degeneration of intervertebral discs and other tissues, potentially maintaining recurrent or chronic LBP. Factors contributing to motor control adaptations in LBP have been extensively studied on the motor output side, but less attention has been paid to changes in sensory input, specifically proprioception. Furthermore, motor cortex reorganization has been linked with chronic and recurrent LBP, but underlying factors are poorly understood. Here, we review current research on behavioral and neural effects of motor control adaptations in LBP. We conclude that back pain-induced disrupted or reduced proprioceptive signaling likely plays a pivotal role in driving long-term changes in the top-down control of the motor system via motor and sensory cortical reorganization. In the outlook of this review, we explore whether motor control adaptations are also important for other (musculoskeletal) pain conditions.

Meier, M. L., Vrana, A., & Schweinhardt, P. (2018). Low Back Pain: The Potential Contribution of Supraspinal Motor Control and Proprioception. *The Neuroscientist*, 1073858418809074. doi:10.1177/1073858418809074 © Haavik Research 2024

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Understanding Pain Campaign

Are you concerned you do not know enough to answer Questions?



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NOT ENROLLED



7 Lessons

BS2.07 Pain is created in the Brain

50 minutes – the latest science tells us that pain is created in the brain – to warn us about danger.



Dr Heidi Haavik

NOT ENROLLED



7 Lessons

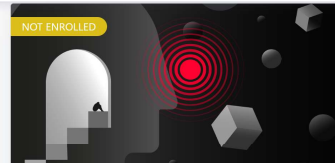
BS2.08 Understanding Chronic Pain

65 minutes



Dr Heidi Haavik

NOT ENROLLED



7 Lessons

BS2.09 Connection between Stress, Pain, Sleep and Ment...

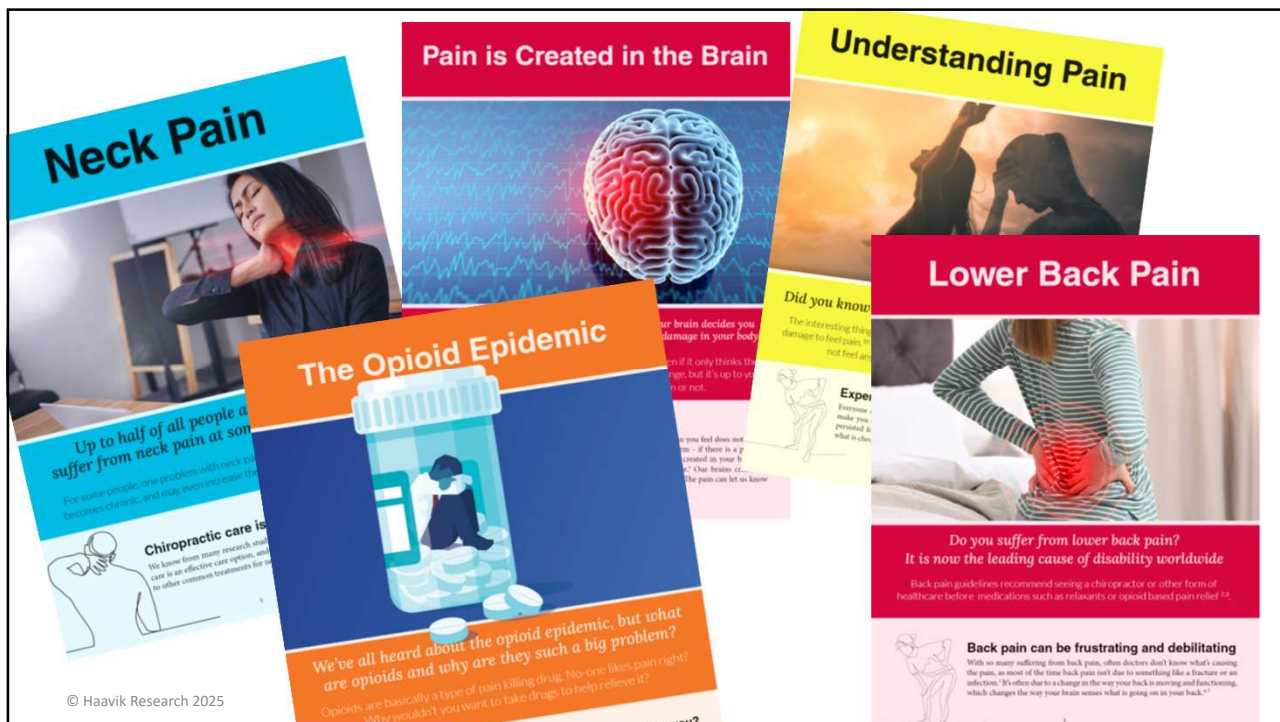
61 minutes



Dr Heidi Haavik

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Did you know...

Current scientific understanding is showing us that how your spine “talks” to your brain is vitally important to enable your brain to control and accurately move your head, neck and back properly.

If your spine is not working properly, it does not “talk” to the brain properly, and this is known to both cause and maintain neck and back pain.

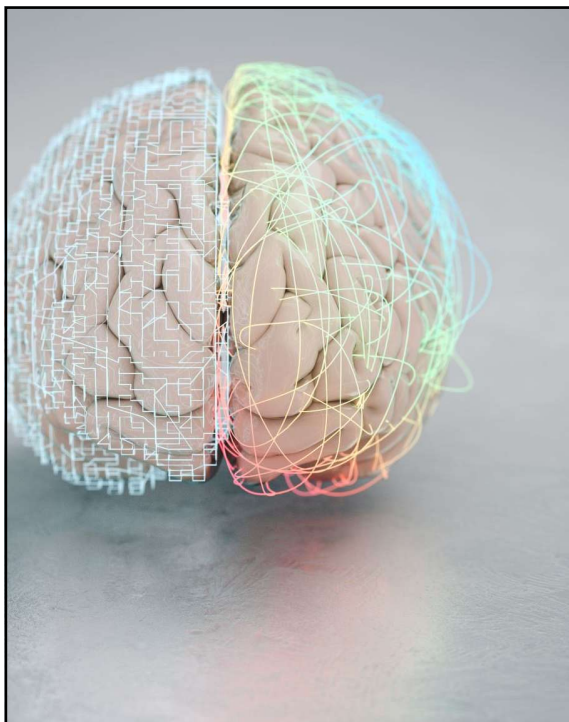
My job as a chiropractor is to train your spine back into proper function, so it can “talk” to you brain properly.





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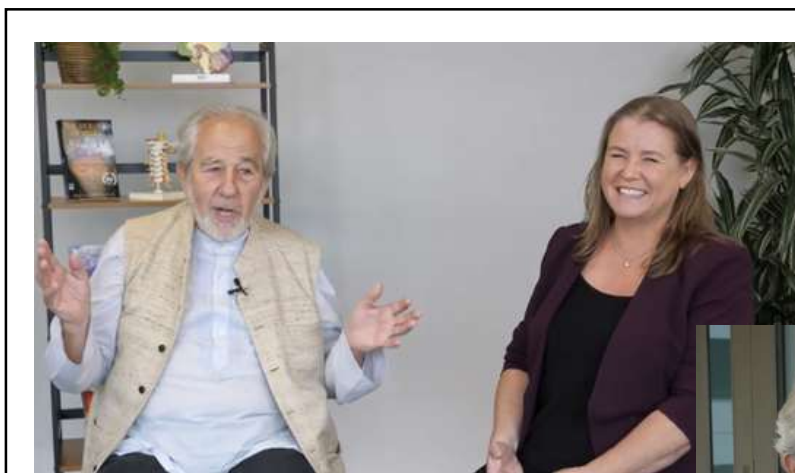
The Short Version

"Research indicates that chiropractic care, that includes the adjustment of vertebral subluxations, enhances brain-body communication, allowing your brain to more accurately interpret internal and external signals. This improved perception of what is happening inside you and around you enables your brain to optimize bodily functions and adapt more effectively to your environment."

Heidi Haavik

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Bruce Lipton & Heidi Haavik

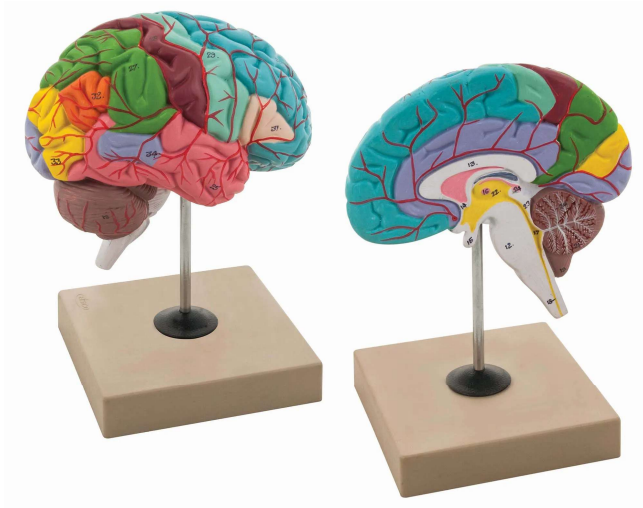
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDWS3Xgj4WM>



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Do you now think it would be a good idea to get yourself a brain model for your practice?



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Cool Upcoming Research

- Dr Jenna Duher's PhD project at Auckland University
- Baby RCT
- Infant babies
- 8 weeks care
- EEG & HRV
- Posture assessment measures
- Parent reported outcomes
- Breastfeeding outcomes



NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF
CHIROPRACTIC
graduating hands, hearts & minds

AUSTRALIAN
spinal
research
FOUNDATION

THE KID'S
SUMMIT



Jenna Duehr

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Infantile postural
asymmetry (IPA)

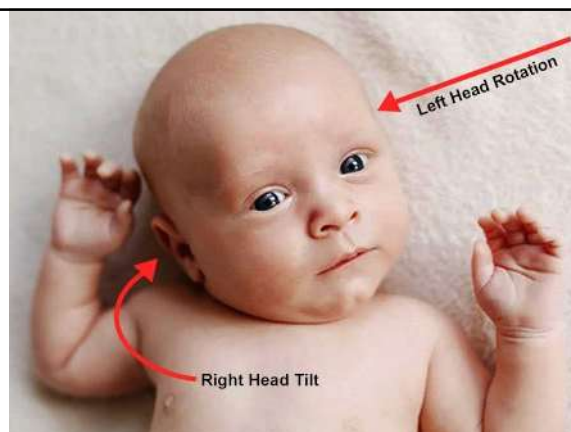
Abnormal positional
preferences of the
head or trunk

• **Short term consequences:**

- Suboptimal breastfeeding (1, 2, 3)
- Abnormal sensory input, visual field preferences (4,5,6)
- Developmental delay, particularly in the motor domain (7,8,9)
- Plagiocephaly (10, 11, 12, 13)
- Developmental hip dysplasia (14, 15)

• **Long term consequences:**

- Neurodevelopmental disorders (9, 16, 18, 19)
- Learning and behavioural difficulties as children (16, 19)
- Sensory processing disorders (9, 16, 19)



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Outcome measures

• **Postural asymmetry measurements**

- Video based analysis using automated infant pose recognition system
 - Head bend angle
 - Trunk bend angle

• **Musculoskeletal Infant Breastfeeding Assessment Questionnaire** (1)

• **Parent reported outcome measure**

- Based on the United Kingdom Infant Questionnaire (2)
 - Sleeping
 - Feeding
 - Crying
 - Head position preference
 - Health



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Exploring the
mechanisms of change
in infants receiving
chiropractic care:

EEG and HRV analysis



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Please Help us Complete this work

<https://chiropractic.ac.nz/research/support-our-research/specific-projects/>

Chiropractic Research: Chiropractic Research About Our Research Research Team Support Our Research

Applied Kinesiology (AK)

AK practitioners can reliably find 'weak muscles', but what exactly is a weak muscle? Using the latest bio medical engineering technology, we will investigate changes in these muscles before and after adjustments.

Donate one time only

Donate every month

Paediatric/Kids Summit

The Centre for Chiropractic Research has conducted a number of research studies looking at the effects of chiropractic care on the paediatric population, which has generously been supported by Kids Summit. One of our exciting upcoming projects will be investigating the neurophysiological effects of chiropractic adjustments on babies using EEG and heart rate variability.

Donate one time only

Donate every month

Prefrontal cortex

We know that chiropractic adjustments alter the prefrontal cortex, but what does this mean for the health and function of our practice members? Support our ground breaking 12-week clinical trial on the effects of chiropractic care on prefrontal cortex functions, such as immune function, sleep and stress.

Donate one time only

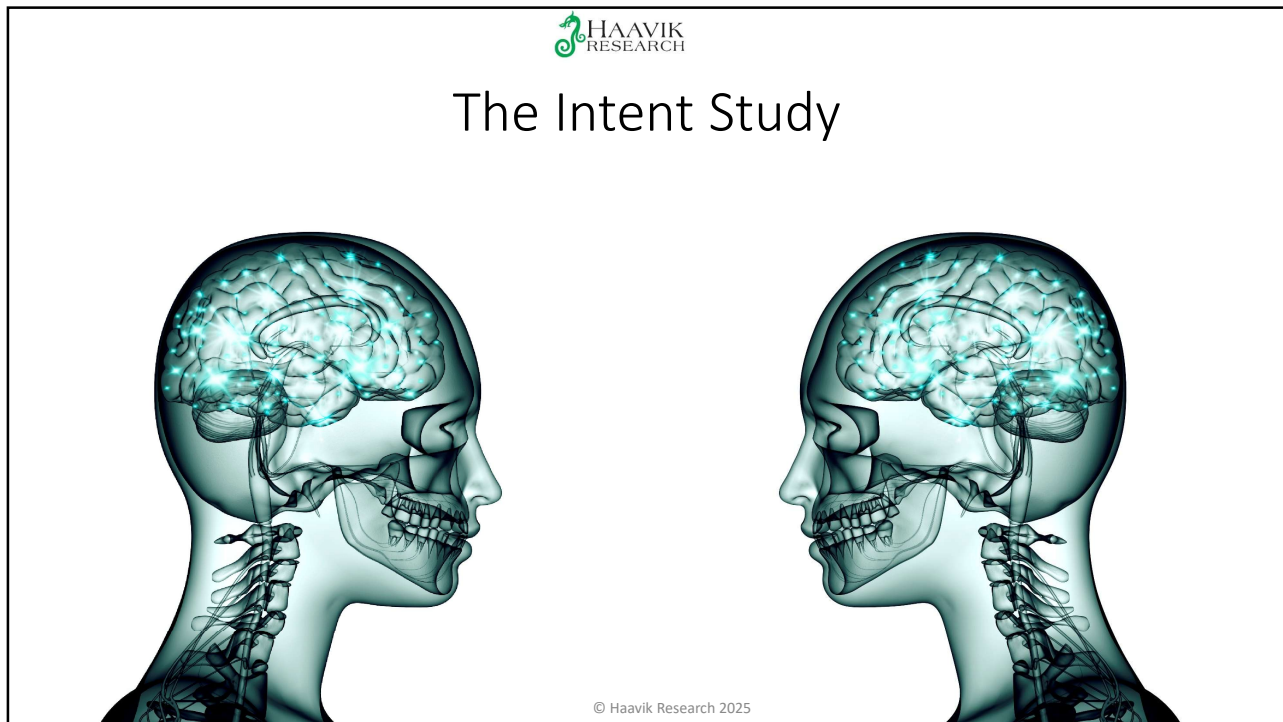
Donate every month

PhD scholarship donation

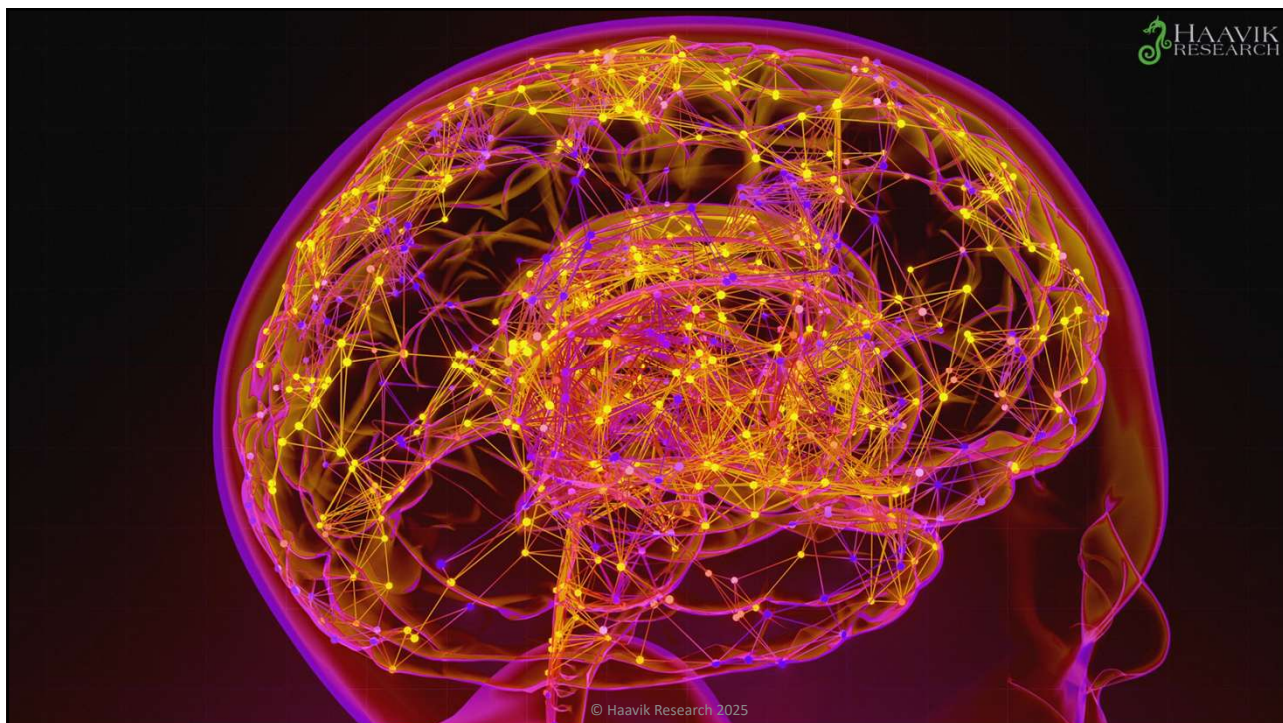
The field of chiropractic research is growing and there is so much research to do. We want to continue to advance the chiropractic profession with high-quality research and an important part of this is to support chiropractors to undertake a PhD. You can help support Dr Jenna Duehr who will be undertaking a PhD through The University of Auckland looking at the neurophysiological effects of chiropractic adjustments on babies.

Donate one time only

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Enlighten the world
about the science
of the spine



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ChirosHub






ChirosHub

✓ All the resources for your patients and the public!



ChirosAcademy

✓ Over 70 online classes about the science of chiropractic for you!



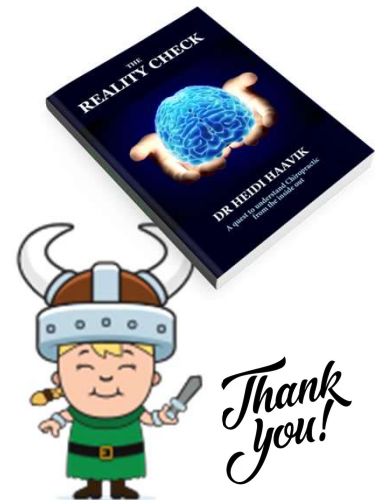
LearningHub

✓ Online classes for your chiropractic assistants!

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**TODAY'S HANDOUT
& Gifts**

heidihaavik.com



Enlightening the world about the
science of chiropractic