

Hearing can be aided with chiropractic

Question: Can hearing be helped with chiropractic care?

Answer: The founder of chiropractic, Dr. D. D. Palmer, treated the first chiropractic patient, Harvey Lillard, in 1895, for a hearing loss problem. Mr. Lillard was the janitor at the facility where Dr. Palmer was researching the spine, nervous system and their functions. Understanding the connection between the upper cervical spine and the ability to hear he examined and then treated Mr. Lillard's upper neck vertebra with the first official chiropractic adjustment. As the story goes, Mr. Lillard could immediately hear the stagecoaches outside the Davenport, Iowa building. His hearing came back and remained for the rest of his life.

Not all chiropractic adjustments are that miraculous but this still happens every day somewhere in the country and where adjustments are given. This individual adjustment to Mr. Lillard's upper neck was no fluke. There is direct nerve supply from the upper cervical region to the hearing centers in the ear and brain. Hearing dysfunctions can be caused by multiple sources. Sinus congestion backing up into the Eustachian tube and inner ear can disrupt hearing as well as trauma, genetic background, infection and abnormal growth of inner-ear structures. Neurological interference is the type of hearing loss that often receives positive outcomes from chiropractic treatment.

The upper cervical vertebra – especially the relationship of the occipital skull bone, atlas (first cervical vertebra) and axis (second cervical vertebra) – play a dominant role in maintaining nerve supply and information to the ear and

its functions. A subluxation in this region can impair hearing temporarily. The relationship of other sutures in the skull being misaligned can also influence hearing perception.

It is very important for anyone with hearing loss to consult an experienced professional in the field such as an audiologist and/or an otolaryngologist, an ear, nose, throat specialist. Permanent or partial hearing loss that does not respond to conventional methods should be checked by your chiropractor to determine if the cause is neurological in nature.

Don't suffer needlessly. If this sounds like a good idea then you should pursue it.

Quote of the week: *"Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to error that counts."* – Nikki Giovanni