

Paraplegics benefit from chiropractic

Question: Can people without the use of the arms or legs such as a paraplegic person benefit from chiropractic adjustments?

Answer: There are varying degrees of neurological loss that lead to partial or total loss of body function. Hemiplegic means one side of the body is not responding to nerve signals from the brain while paraplegic means none of the signals are enervating the lower half of the body. Hemiplegia is a common secondary response to a stroke while paraplegia is commonly secondary to trauma, disease or genetic causes. Both conditions are neurological responses to damage at the source of the nerve supply in the brain or spine. Some people make miraculous recoveries from stroke and even severe trauma to the brain and spine. The nervous system is very resilient and can regenerate in some cases. As long as the nerve fibers are not totally severed there is always hope that the nervous system will compensate and adapt for the loss. The nervous system has rerouted alternate nerve passages and utilized other nerves to take on the function of the damaged or torn nerves. This has been identified in the anastomosis in the heart. This has been observed in people with severed limbs receiving sensation in the non-injured limb when the missing limb was supposed to respond.

As long as any portion of the central or peripheral nervous system is intact there is a need to maintain that portion of the nervous system to its maximum potential because it is obviously working harder to accommodate for losses. Chiropractic treatments are vital to assisting the maintenance of these surviving

nerves and their passages. Adapting muscles and soft tissues around the spine require balance and the chiropractic adjustments can assist. Chiropractic care does not give back any severed or missing tissue but it can help with comfort and maintenance in the cases of paraplegia.

Quote of the week: *“If we get what we think about the most, why would we think about what we don’t want?”* – Tom Payne