Spinal Cord Injury, Vertebral Artery Dissection, and Cerebellar Strokes After Chiropractic Manipulation

Author(s):
Gabriel Bortoli Ramos, MD\textsuperscript{1}; Rebecca Ranzani Martins, MD\textsuperscript{1}; Julia Carvalhinho Carlos de Souza, MD\textsuperscript{1}; Fernando Cavalcanti de Sá e Benevides Falcão, MD\textsuperscript{1}; Cesar Castello Branco Lopes, MD\textsuperscript{1}; Andre Luiz Gargioni de Andrade, MD\textsuperscript{1}; Guilherme Diogo Silva, MD\textsuperscript{1}

Corresponding Author:
Gabriel Bortoli Ramos
gabrielbortoli@icloud.com

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Affiliation Information for All Authors: 1. Hospital das Clinicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo

Contributions:
Gabriel Bortoli Ramos: Major role in the acquisition of data; Study concept or design
Rebecca Ranzani Martins: Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Julia Carvalhinho Carlos de Souza: Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Fernando Cavalcanti de Sá e Benevides Falcão: Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Cesar Castello Branco Lopes: Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Andre Luiz Gargioni de Andrade: Major role in the acquisition of data
Guilherme Diogo Silva: Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content

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A 48-year-old woman with chronic neck pain presented with a history of sudden neck pain and generalized weakness during a chiropraxis session. Neurological examination showed tetraplegia with C5 sensory level. Cervical spine CT revealed a fracture affecting C5 and C6 vertebra (Figure A-B). Cervical spine MRI confirmed spinal cord injury (Figure C). Also, bilateral vertebral artery occlusion and acute cerebellar infarction were found (Figures D-F). Bony ankylosis was found in cervical CT spine suggesting undiagnosed ankylosing spondylitis was a risk factor for spine fracture. Other neurological lesions related to chiropraxis include vertebral artery dissection, epidural hematoma and acute disk herniation\textsuperscript{1,2}.

### Appendix 1. Authors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gabriel Bortoli,</strong> MD</td>
<td>Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>Designed and conceptualized the study; drafted the manuscript for intellectual content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rebeca Martins,</strong> MD</td>
<td>Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>Data curation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Julia Souza,</strong> MD</td>
<td>Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>Data curation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


Figure. Spinal cord injury, vertebral artery dissection, and cerebellar strokes after chiropractic manipulation

Sagittal cervical spine CT revealed a fracture and intense bony ankylosis (Figures A and B). T2-weighted sagittal cervical spinal cord MRI showed a spinal cord injury (Figure C). CT angiography identified bilateral vertebral artery occlusion (Figure D). Axial diffusion-weighted imaging and FLAIR brain MRI documented cerebellar ischemia (Figure E, F).
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