

HISTORY OF UPPER CERVICAL INJURIES MAY POSE CONTRAINDICTION TO MANUAL CERVICAL ADJUSTING

Many patients seek the care from their medical doctor, chiropractor, physical therapist, or massage therapist for neck pain following an accident. Manual manipulation to the spine has proven to be successful. While most patient's benefit from manual therapy, some are at increased risk of further injury or even death following these therapies.

There are plenty of studies describing the risks of manipulation to the cervical spine with ligamentous damage. Excessive joint play (especially around the vertebral arteries) poses increases risk of further injury or death. Depending upon the severity, the higher risk patient may only be able to receive instrumental manipulations or possibly not receive any manipulation.

The proficient health care provider will minimize the risk to the patient by performing tests to determine if such risks exist. These tests may include orthopedic and neurologic provocative tests, x-ray, MRI, and CT.

As a provider of Digital motion X-ray, I would like you to consider digital motion x-ray (DMX) as part of your arsenal of tests to minimize the risks to your patient.

Until I had the chance to perform several DMX studies, *I had no idea just how many ligamentous injuries went undetected by the static imaging such as X-rays, MRI, CT.* Most of the patient's I have performed DMX for previously had static negative studies with continued complaints. Static imaging nearly always misses sub failure ligamentous damage! Sub failure ligamentous damage is where the ligament is still intact, however it has been stretched beyond its capacity and no longer can provide the stability to that joint. This is called Alteration Of Motion Segment Integrity or AOSMI. AOSMI is a permanent damage. The ligament will never regain its full function. SUB FAILURES LOOK NORMAL ON STATIC IMAGING! The only true way of finding them is to see the joint in motion.

The information booklet I am including is primarily geared toward those being treated for new injuries to the cervical spine. As mentioned in the booklet, CRMA studies is a must to prove permanent injury increasing the potential for a better settlement and/or increasing the number of treatments needed.

What about current or new patients with old cervical injuries? Could they be a contraindication to treatment or to manual therapies?

A recent referral to my office had me re-visit this question. Her injuries were over 20 years ago. She had manual manipulation with little to no success over the years. Some manipulations would cause her more and increased symptoms. The DMX study showed that she had damaged several ligaments in her upper cervical spine. Manual manipulation is a contraindication to this patient.

Patients that do not need to prove their injuries to a third party payer, but need to rule out the risk of ligamentous damage can save by getting a less complex DMX cervical assessment.

This assessment will not include interpretation, CRMA or the full cervical spine. This will focus on the upper cervical spine. Under the Unlisted procedure the cost is 200.00. The interpretation by our

licensed radiologist for this service will be approximately \$150.00. You may interpret this in your office if you prefer. You may choose to either charge the patient for this service or include it in your office visit.

The purpose of the limited DMX assessment is only to rule in or out the risk associated with cervical manipulation of the spine.

If your purpose is to prove injuries sustained during an accident, the Full cervical DMX study with CRMA is required. The limited study will not give you enough information to determine the severity of the injury or to substantiate the case. We will require a minimum 400.00 down for the full DMX study with CRMA procedure. We are willing to place the remaining balance owed on a lien.

We only accept cash or check at this time for this service. We will accept payment from your office if you wish to have the patient/client reimburse you directly by credit card.

Minimum payment must be made prior to the service being rendered.

A 40 dollar fee will be assessed against the issuer of a check with insufficient funds.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly on cell at (928) 600-1762 or you can Arizona digital motion x-ray at (855) DMX-RAY1 which is (855) 369-7291

We look forward to serving you and your patients,

Bruce Lee, D.C.,MUA-C