

What Science?

A CHIROPRACTIC RESPONSE TO THE CHIEFS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF PEDIATRICS OF PEDIATRIC HOSPITALS IN CANADA AND ELSEWHERE

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We wish to express our gratitude to Murray Katz and those medical practitioners who issued their "Statement of the Chiefs of the Departments of Pediatrics of Pediatric Hospitals in Canada." This statement brings up the critical issue of proper, scientific care for infants and children everywhere. We welcome this opportunity to respond.

Until now, the major "health care provider" has not been publicly scrutinized for the safety and efficacy of its routine treatments for infants and children, so that a balanced perspective can be established, in regard to condemning or condoning of certain medical or chiropractic practices.

Therefore, we wish to express our great concern over the continuing anecdotal attacks against chiropractic by political medicine,¹ and especially the unscientific claims being made, and dangerous practices being performed on infants and children by some medical practitioners. Harmful medical practices are being conducted with impunity and alarming consequences, without benefit of controlled clinical trials or scientific outcome measures to determine their safety or efficacy for infants and children.^{2,3,4}

Medical treatment, radiation, inoculations, drugs, and surgery ("RIDS") operates best as crisis care. However medicine's inherently dangerous and often deadly side-effects are well documented⁵ and contribute to the increased risk of future genetic damage and health problems for the infant or child,^{6,7} without any health benefit to the infant or child, except in emergency conditions. Risk of medical treatment is appropriate for only emergency situations and after safer, noninvasive, conservative measures have been exhausted.

We call upon government to evaluate courses taught and claims made by graduates of medical schools, regarding medical treatment ("RIDS") of infants and children, in non-emergency situations, which promotes a paradoxical health philosophy of saying "no" to drugs when well, but "yes" to drugs when sick.

We challenge chiropractic critics in the medical profession to act responsibly and produce any scientific evidence they possess, to support their anti-chiropractic allegations, especially those claiming chiropractic to be of no value, unscientific, or dangerous, or to submit a public apology to the chiropractic profession.⁸

Contrary to information being distributed to parents and the general public:

1. Medical treatment ("RIDS") is not required as a preventive therapy to maintain a child's health. The proper settings for the practice of medicine is the emergency room and first aid station.⁹

2. Medical treatment ("RIDS") cannot substitute for natural immunity and health, nor for chiropractic spinal adjustment. Chiropractic care is well documented to benefit the health of those infants, children and adults who suffer the untoward health consequences of biomechanical faults/subluxations of the spine.¹⁰ Spinal manipulation can also benefit the patient, in preventing future disease.^{11,12}
3. Parents should not allow an unqualified medical practitioner or "orthopractor"¹³ to treat any musculoskeletal problems of infants, children, or adults without prior consultation and referral from a chiropractic doctor.¹⁴ With minimal education and training in the musculoskeletal system,¹⁵ it seems irresponsible and dangerous for uniformed representatives of the medical profession to misguide patients regarding another profession's specialty.¹⁶
4. Unsubstantiated claims by some medical practitioners that postural deformities, such as scoliosis, kyphosis or unequal leg lengths, do not have long-term, deleterious health consequences, and "are not effectively treated by manipulation," contradict the 1980 AMA Orthopedic Council statement,¹⁷ the current scientific literature, and clinical practice.¹⁸ Such claims can only function as a source of embarrassment to their more responsible and learned colleagues.
5. Infant and childhood diseases (measles, mumps, whooping cough, etc.) are not effectively prevented by inoculation, yet inoculations are known to cause significant brain injury and death to many children and to increase the incidence and severity of those diseases for which they have been inoculated.^{19,20}
6. Until parents are made aware of inoculation risks and until actual inoculation/immunization studies, (not misleading inferences from white blood cell counts) are produced, demonstrating inoculation efficacy in creating immunity^{21,22} school boards should not authorize, and parents should not allow their children to attend school inoculation programs organized by medics and pharmaceutical companies.
7. Nausea, fever and the common cold, among some other so-called infant and childhood diseases, are not necessarily disease processes or normally life threatening, but manifestations of a properly functioning immune system.²³ They represent the body's solution, not its problem, and are not effectively treated routinely with emergency intervention measures ("RIDS"). In the great majority of cases what a medical practitioner may diagnose as disease in a child is in fact the body's natural and health response to an unhealthy situation, which may become serious if proper health care by a qualified health care provider is denied, and/or the body is not allowed to respond in a natural, timely and proper manner.²⁴
8. Parents should regard, with extreme skepticism, claims made by some parents that their infants or children have been actually cured of diseases with medicine ("RIDS"). However, well meaning, such unreliable personal testimony, based on years of outdated "medical science"^{25,26} and pharmaceutical advertising, (\$13 million a day),²⁷ cannot substitute for scientific fact.

9. We understand the concern of some parents, steeped in the medical model of disease, concerning ear infections. Some parents may be unduly convinced their child's life is in danger, based on the unscientific claims and recommendations of some medical practitioners. These unprofessional scare tactics, which intimidate and frighten parents, only lend impetus to the emotional appeal of a quick fix with drugs and surgery. Modern medicine's drug and surgical treatment for ear infections remains ineffective and fraught with serious complications and long-term, irreversible consequences for the child.^{28,29} Until independent, scientific documentation is produced, in support of medical treatment's efficacy and safety for ear infections, such treatments should be prohibited.

If there is scientific documentation based on well established designs and protocols for controlled clinical trials and patient outcome measures demonstrating clinical efficacy for treatment of non-crisis infant or childhood "diseases" with medicine ("RIDS"),³⁰ we would welcome the opportunity to review it. If it exists, let us see it! We are open to scientific discussion and willing to be convinced of medicine's efficacy in cases where facts may warrant it. A matter as important as the lives and well-being of children must not be based on bias, tradition, faith or financial interest,³¹ but science, compassion and common sense.

Until and unless such documentation is provided, we call upon government to stop the practice of unscientific medicine to protect the innocent.^{32,33}

10. We call upon government to immediately suspend all medical treatment/payments in the pediatric age group, i.e., up to 18 years, except for first-aid/crisis intervention or referral from a doctor of chiropractic. Chiropractic doctors are qualified by education and training to recognize problems which may require referral to a qualified medic. Chiropractors do not stand to benefit financially from any medical treatment to the patient.
11. We call upon government to conduct an independent comparative study of morbidity and mortality rates over the last few years in Canada and the U.S. Since Canada's health care system has made it virtually impossible for many patients to receive immediate medical treatment, and since US patients still have ample access to medical treatment, we submit that this study will reveal startling new insights into the current health care challenge.³⁴
12. A profession which asserts itself as the definitive health care profession and calls its service health care should be required to provide a product called health. Obviously a profession's name should accurately and honestly reflect its product. We therefore call upon legislators to: a) require medical practitioners to stop using the term "health" care in favor of the more accurate and honest term "emergency" care or some equivalent, so as to avoid misleading the public; b) remove medicine's unfair legal advantages over chiropractic, thereby allowing honest competition and natural market forces to prevail in determining which "health care" providers merit patient confidence, in terms of patient outcome, safety, satisfaction and cost effectiveness.

We find it reprehensible, cynical and ironic for representatives of a documentedly incompetent, bungling and fatality producing profession^{35,36} to criticize chiropractic, which, enjoys one of the finest health care records in history, for patient out-come, safety, satisfaction and cost

effectiveness.^{37,38}

Let the records of chiropractic and medicine speak for themselves.

Finally we challenge those representatives of the medical profession who feel for whatever reasons compelled to oppose the chiropractic profession to put patient's interests first in their deliberations and considerations; to dispense with hypocrisy and to 'oppose' as a noble, scientific and "worthy opponent" as we shall continue to strive to be for medicine!

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