### POST CONCUSSION SYNDROME

The Role of the Upper Cervical Chiropractor and Collaborative Care

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Prepared for Blair Chiropractic Society Annual Conference
10.12.18



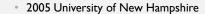
### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN?





#### ARETÉ CHIROPRACTIC

Living life with excellence through fulfillment of purpose and function



- 2010 Life Chiropractic College West
  - Dr.Tom Forest
  - Commitment to Excellence LCCW 2009, ACA Scholarship 2009, WCCS Leadership Award 2008
- 2015 ICA-Diplomate in Chiropractic Craniocervical Junction Procedures
- 2010-2015 Lenarz Assoc. Seattle WA
- Blair Primary Certification
- Craniocervical Chiropractic Procedures: a precis of upper cervical chiropractic, JCCA 2015 Jun;59(2):173-92
- Private Practice Portsmouth NH
- Board member ICA-Council on Upper Cervical Care
- 2017, 2018 Wentworth Douglas Hospital Concussion Symposium
- 2018 UMASS Concussion symposium
- NO DISCLOSURES





WE CONTINUE WITH THE HEAD CRACKING ACTIVITIES ...





- Defining Concussion/ mTBI
  - Structural Insult
  - Neurophysiologic cascade
- Co-management with Paraprofessionals
  - They vs. US
  - Who's doing what and speaking the language!
- Role of the Upper Cervical Chiropractor
  - A case study

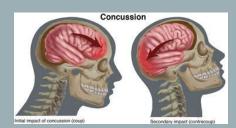
YOU SEE THESE CASES EVERYDAY

## ARE CONCUSSIONS HAPPENING MORE OR ARE WE PAYING MORE ATTENTION?

- Concussion is a form of mild traumatic brain injury that affects an estimated
   3.8 million people per year in the United States<sup>1</sup>
  - Langlois JA, Rutland-Brown W, Wald MM.The epidemiology and impact of traumatic brain injury: a brief overview. J Head Trauma Rehabil. 2006;21: 375-8
- While chiropractors have generally not been associated with the care of
  patients with post-concussion complaints, a cohort study showed that patients
  with mild traumatic brain injury after motor vehicle crashes commonly utilize
  chiropractic care<sup>3</sup>
  - Hartvigsen J, Boyle E, Cassidy JD, Carroll LJ. Mild traumatic brain injury after motor vehicle collisions: what are the symptoms and who treats them? A population-based I-year inception cohort study. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2014 Mar; 95(3 Suppl):S286-94.



# SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION/ PCS AND OF A WHIPLASH INJURY OVERLAP





- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Irritability, Anxiety
- Vertigo
- Neck Pain
- Back Pain
- Loss of Balance
- Cognitive Impairment
- Trouble sleeping
- Light and Sound sensitivity
- Visual disturbances

#### This leads to two important points

- I. Many people automatically associate concussion with sports however many concussions are suffered from motor vehicle accidents, slips and falls, work injuries, and assaults. Pediatric population is particularly susceptible
- 2. Chiropractors are likely to see people with persistent post concussion syndrome due to overlapping cervical injury and unresolved symptoms. Vital for the clinician to recognize the management considerations for the head injured patient





#### **CONCUSSION DEFINED**

- A Type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain FUNTIONS
- Concussion produces metabolic rather than anatomic injury to the brain
- Can be caused by direct contact to the head but also whiplash type or blast injury
  - The head does not have to be directly hit
  - · Loss of consciousness does NOT dictate severity, or diagnosis



#### CONCUSSION DEFINED

- Research suggests that repeated injury, particularly during the recovery period may result in more severe injury (Second Impact Syndrome)
- Acceleration/ deceleration forces transmitted to the brain immediately after impact
- Causing the cascade of neurochemical events WRT the brain and the acceleration deceleration injury affects the structures of the cervical spine



## STRUCTURES THAT ALSO RESPOND TO MECHANICAL STIMULATION AND ARE "CONCUSS-ABLE"

- Olfactory Nerves/ tract
- Retina, optic nerves
- Trigeminal Nerve
- · Vestibular Apparatus- semicircular cannals
- · Auditory apparatus- cochlea
- · Cervical spine soft tissue
  - Muscles, ligaments, tendons, joint capsules, blood vessles
- Cervical spinal cord nuclei- C1-C3 nerve roots
  - From Robert Cantu MD, CTE 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference BU 11/917



#### CONCUSSION DIAGNOSIS

- Clinical observations -HX, Physical Exam, Balance Assessment
- Glasgow Coma Scale physical assessment of Eyes, Verbal, Motor, Score below 14 (DX Acute Concussion)
- The Brain Trauma Indicator measures blood plasma levels of the UCH-L1, a protein scientists believe helps dispose of cellular waste in the brain, and GFAP, a structural protein found in non-neuronal cells called astrocytes. Both are released at elevated levels following a concussion or other injury that damages nerve fibers and both can be detected within 20 minutes of a head injury
  - As of Feb 2018 controversial, pushed through FDA in 6 months lab in San Diego
- Computerized Neurocognitive tests (ImPACT) pre/post
- Imaging- CT, MRI, Functional MRI (areas of altered cerebral perfussion)



#### POST CONCUSSION SYNDROME (PCS)

- Most sports related concussion will self resolve in 7-14 days <sup>1</sup>
- Athletes approximately 10% of patients have symptoms that persist beyond 10 days WRT sports related concussion. 2
- Non-athletes have shown up to 33% having symptoms beyond 3 months (why is this? - deconditioned cervical spine, less compliance in the brain tissue WRT altered blood/CSF flow?)
- Patients with persistent symptoms 30 days after head injury are diagnosed as
  - McCrory P, Meeuwisse W, Dvorak J, et al. Consensus statement on concussion in sport the 5th international conference on concussion in sport held in Berlin, October 2016. Br J Sports Med. Published Online First: 26 April 2017. Doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2017-097699.
     Leddy JJ, Sandhu H, Sodhi V, et al. Rehabilitation of concussion and post-concussion syndrome. Orthopaedic Surgery. 2012



#### **EVOLVING TREATMENT**

- Vienna 200 I
  - Completely asymptomatic and normal neuro and cognitive evals before start of rehab program
- Prague 2004
- Zurich 2008
- Zurich 2012
  - Acute rest phase 24-48 hrs. then gradual return to low level activities
- Berlin 2016
  - Acute rest phase 24-48 hrs. then encouraged to become gradually and progressively more active winds staying below their cognitive and physical symptoms. Avoid vigorous exertion. Will benefit from multi-disciplinary approach including cervical rehabilitation, vestibular rehabilitation, and cognitive behavior therapy!
    - I. McCrory P, Meeuwisse W, Dvorak J, et al. Consensus statement on concussion in sport the 5th international conference on concussion in sport held in Berlin, October 2016. Br J Sports Med. Published Online First: 26 April 2017. Doi: 10.1136/bjports-2017-097699.







#### DEVELOPING ACTIVE TREATMENT PLAN

- Buffalo Concussion Treadmill Test John J Leddy Univ. Buffalo NY
- ≥ 3 points from baseline on a symptom (HA, Dizziness ect)
- Exhaustion
- Reaching age adjusted Target HR
  - 80% of Max HR (220-age)
- Some studies have shown strict rest beyond 2-3 days unsupported by evidence and may prolong recovery from head injury 1,2



- 1. Silverberg ND, Iverson GL. Is rest after concussion "the best medicine?": recommendations for activity resumption 1. Silverberg (ND, version GL. is rest after concussion the best insectioner: recommendators for activity resumption following concussion in athletes, civilians, and military service members. J Head Trauma Rehabil. 2013 Jul Aug; 28(4):250-259.

  C Grool AM, Agilpay M, Momoli F, et al. Association between early participation in physical activity following acute concussion and persistent post-concussive symptoms in children and adolescents. JAMA. 2016;316(23):2504-2514

# POST CONCUSSION SYNDROME

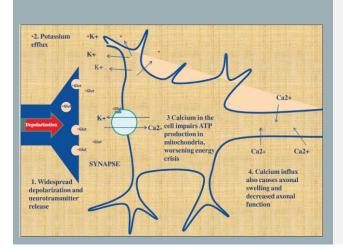
3 CATEGORIES

Remember we want to know WHO's doing what so we can co-management and communicate effectively!

- Physiologic PSC
- Vestibulo-ocular PCS
- Cervicogenic PCS



#### PHYSIOLOGIC PCS

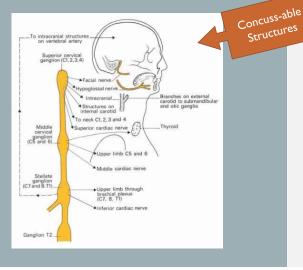


- Sudden stretching of neuronal and axon membranes
- Widespread depolarization and neurotransmitter release (Glutamate)
- Potassium (K<sup>+</sup>) released in neurosynaptic junction
- Calcium (Ca <sup>2+</sup>) impairs ATP production in mitochondria – energy crisis for the brain, also swelling the axon decreasing functionality



#### PHYSIOLOGIC PSC

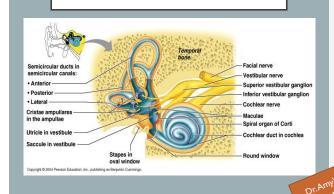
Structures



- Primary issues are energy shortage as the brain NEEDS more ATP for repair the mitochondria are unable to produce it!
- Altered Autonomic functioning: Sympathetic overdrive
  - ↑ HR, ↑Pupil Dialation, ↓ Digestion, ↑ Saliva
- This challenges cerebral auto regulation (maintenance of constant cerebral blood flow despite changes in cerebral perfusion pressure)
- Ellis MJ, Leddy JJ, Wiler B. Physiological, vestibulo-ocular, and cervicogenic post-concussion disorders: an evidence-based classification system with directions for treatment. Brain Inj. 2015;29(2):238-248.



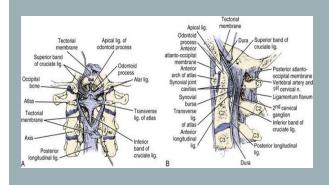
### **VESTIBULO OCCULAR**



- Already discussed how the retina, semi circular canals, optic nerve, cochlea are "concussable"
- Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV)
  - 28% of patients with head trauma have BPPV
  - Dix Hallpike/ Epply Posterior canal (tilt) Anterior canal (yes) Roll test for Lateral/horizontal canal (no)
- Vestibular Occular Motor Screening (VOMS)
  - Smooth pursuit, Saccades (Hor/Vert), Near Pt Convergence, VOR (Hor/Vert)



#### **CERVICOGENIC PCS**



- Studies measuring force profiles for concussion show a range of between 60-160g. Mild strain of the cervical spine can occur in the 4.5 g range<sup>1</sup>
- Patients with cervical spine injury AND concussion 4x more likely to have persistent sx than those with concussion and no cervical injury<sup>2</sup>



- Marshall CM, Vernon H, Leddy JJ, and Baldwin BA. The role of the cervical spine in post-concussion syndrome. Phys Sportsmed, 2015 Jul;43(3):274-284.
- II Ellis MJ, McDonald PJ, Olson A et al. Cervical spine dysfunction following pediatric sports-related head trauma. J Head Trauma Rehabil. 2018 Jul 24. doi: 10.1097/HTR.000000000000011

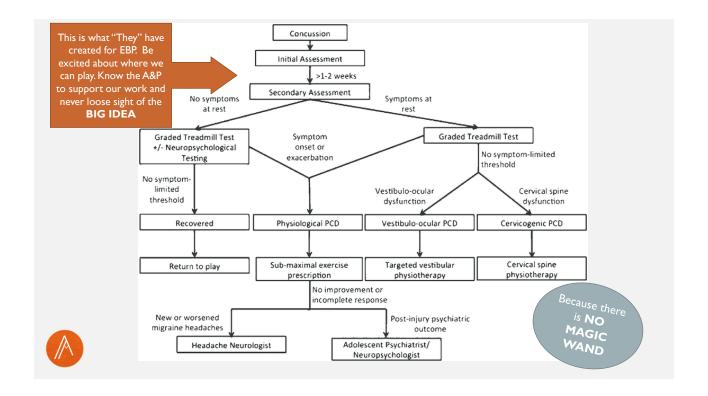


#### CERVICOGENIC PSC CONT

- Headaches after a head/neck injury are so common many post-traumatic headaches classified as cervicogenic headache in the literature<sup>1</sup>
- Recent PT clinical trials for cervicogenic headache show promise with HVLA, Sustained natural apophyseal glide (SNAG), and upper cervical manual mobilization <sup>2,3,4</sup>



- 1. Bogduk N, Govind J. Cervicogenic headache: an assessment of the evidence on clinical diagnosis, invasive tests, and treatment. Lancet Neurol. 2009 Oct;8(10):959-968.
- 2. Dunning JR, Butts R, Mourad F, et al. Upper cervical and upper thoracic manipulation versus mobilization and exercise in patients with cervicogenic headache: a multi-center randomized clinical trial. BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2016 Feb 6; 17:64.
- 3. Hall T, Chan HT, Christensen L, et al. Efficacy of a CI-C2 self-sustained natural apophyseal glide (SNAG) in the management of cervicogenic headache. J Orthop Sports Phys Ther. 2007 Mar; 37(3): 100-107.
- A. Malo-Urres M, Tricas-Moreno JM, Estebanez-de-Miguel E, et al. Immediate effects of upper cervical transatoric mobilization on cervical mobility and pressure pain threshold in patients with cervicogenic headache: a randomized controlled trial. J Manipulative Physiol Ther. 2017 Nov-Dec; 40(9): 649-658.

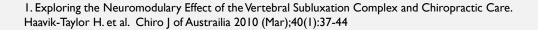




HERO.

## ROLE OF THE UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTOR

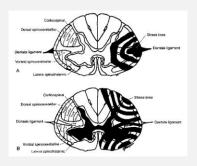
- Sensorimotor Integration
  - How our body sensory system alters out motor patterns
- Proprioception
  - Joint position sense and the sense of a limb movement with absence from visual cues.
     Muscle spindles
- Somatosensory Gating
  - The ability to inhibit sensory information to avoid undesirable reactions
- · Centrally modulated pain
  - CNS using peripheral signals to maintain it's internal frame of reference
- Feed Forward Activation
  - CNS will activate variety of postural muscles prior to any movement of limbs



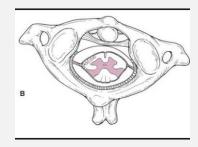


#### THE ROLE OF THE UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTOR

• "-The results strongly favour the theory that CSM is caused by tensile stresses transmitted to the spinal cord from the dura via the dentate ligaments. A spondylotic bar can increase dentate tension by displacing the spinal cord dorsally, while the dural attachments of the dentate, anchored by the dural root sleeves and dural ligaments, are displaced less."1



**Spinal Tracts-**Spinocerebellar Lateral Corticospinal (Pelvic Balance)



1. Pathogenesis of Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy Levine D. J of Neurology Neurosurgery and Psychiatry 1997;62:334-340



#### THE ROLE OF THE UPPER CERVICAL **CHIROPRACTOR**

- Due to the unique mobility of the CCJ forces strong enough to create concussion affect the mechanical structures 1,2
  - · Cranial/cervical muscles, ligaments, facets, nerves, discs, vascular structures
  - C1-3 afferents projecting the Trigemino-cervical nucleaus in the brainstem- nocioception for the head
- High density of mechanoreceptive afferents projecting to the vestibular structures of the CNS including vestibular nuclei and cerebellum 3
  - These afferents mediate head and neck position sense through reflexes like cervicocollic reflex, vestibulocollic reflex, tonic neck reflex, cervico-ocular reflex. These reflexes help the brain integrate visual, vestibular and proprioceptive information to help you know where your head is in space.
- When the reflexes are in conflict (ex: altered information from the visual pathways compared to the cervical proprioceptors) you get dizziness/ vertigo!

<sup>1.</sup> Freeman M., Rosa S., Harshfield D., et al. Journal Brain Injury, July 2010; 24(7-8):988-994

<sup>2.</sup> The Craniocervical Junction: Observations regarding the Relationship between Misalignment, Obstruction of Cerebrospinal Fluid Flow, Cerebellar Tonsillar Ectopia, and Image-Guided Correction. Rosa S.,

Baird J., Smith FW, Dworkin SJ (eds): The Craniocervical Syndrome and MRI. Basel, Karger 2015, pp 48-66
3. Ellis MJ, Leddy JJ, Wiler B. Physiological, vestibulo-ocular, and cervicogenic post-concussion disorders: an evidence-based classification system with directions for treatment. Brain Inj. 2015;29(2):238-248



## ROLE OF THE UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTOR

- WHAT ABOUT THE PHYSIOLOGIC PSC?
- "To prevent damage to the brain from excess pulsatility pressure, the increase in volume must be matched by a simultaneous increase in drainage of venous blood and CSF from the cranial vault."
- "In brief the CCJ in a potential choke point for blood and SCF flow between cranial vault and spinal canal that can cause faulty craniospinal hydrodynamics and subsequent chronic ischemia, edema, and hydrocephalus."
- After trauma there is metabolic dysfunction in brain tissue as well as an increase in neuroinflammatory cytokines and chemokines<sup>2</sup>

Exciting new
research around
research and CCJ
CSF Flow and CCJ
allignment

I.The Role of the Craniocervical Junction in Craniospinal Hydrodynamcs and Neurodegenerative Conditions Flanagan M. Neurology Research International, Hindawi Publishing Corp.Vol. 2015 Article ID 794829

2. Concussion Update: Immunoexcitotoxicity, and Common Etiology of Postconcussion Syndrome, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Marron J. et al. Smith FW, Dworkin SJ (eds): The Craniocervical Syndrome and MRI. Basel, Karger 2015, pp 22-32

Craniocervical chiropractic procedures — a précis of upper cervical chiropractic

H. Charles Woodfield, III, Brem, Dc'
Craig York, Dc'
- Roderic P. Rochester, Dc'
Silva Marchael Robert, Dc'
Silva Marchael Robert, Dc'
Silva Silminen, Dc'
Jeffrey N. Scholten, Dc'
Bryan Silminen, Dc'
Jeffrey N. Scholten, Dc'
Bryan Silminen, Dc'
Jeffrey Rochester, Dc'
Jeffrey Roches

One of the only multi technique overviews of Upper Cervical indexed in PubMed.

45,200 Chiropractors practicing in the U.S. – Dept. of Labor

(http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/chiropractors.htm)

NBCE reports 1.7% of practitioners use Upper Cervical. Approx = 768.4





#### CRANIOCERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC PROCEDURES-A PRECIS OF UPPER CERVICAL CARE. (WOODFIELD C. ET. AL. J OF CAN CHIROPR ASSOC. 2015; (59)2

Upper Cerivcal Tecnique	Knee Chest	Blair	Grostic	Nucca	Orthospinology	AO/AdvO
Palpation	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х
Function LLI		Prone	Supine	Supine	Supine	Supine
Thermography		X	X	X	x	Х
Posture	х			х	x	
Radiography		X	Pre/Post	Pre/Post	Pre/Post	Pre/Post

Important article when reaching out to para professionals and they Ask "what is Upper Cervical"

Commonalities in Imaging

Covers common conditions and symptoms UC has reported on



## SYMPTOMATIC REACTIONS, CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND PATIENT SATISFACTION ASSOCIATED WITH UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC CARE: A PROSPECTIVE MULTICENTER, COHORT STUDY

(ERICKSEN K, ROCHESTER R, HURWITZ E. BIOMEDCENT MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS 2011, 12:219)

- 83 Chiropractors "all doctors agreed to refrain from using any other type of spinal care (ie: full spine manipulation, physical therapy, massage therapy) other than the upper cervical technique that they were trained to use."
- Outcome Measures- Neck Pain Disability Index, Oswestry Back Pain Disability Index, II pt Numerical Rating Scale, Patient treatment Satisfaction and Symptomatic Reaction (SR = new complaint or worsening of present complaint by >30% on IINRS. w/in 24 hours of office visit)
- N= 1090
- Avg # Office Visits: 4.5 over 17 days
- Avg # Adjustments: 2.4



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- 31% Symptomatic Reaction
- 5.1% Severe Reaction (NRS greater or equal to 8)
- Patient Satisfaction 9.1/10 "How satisfied are you with the treatment by your chiropractor?"
- Statistically Significant Improvement in
- Neck Pain
- Headache
- Midback Pain
- Low Back Pain
- (Many other non-MSK symptoms reported in this study- above were most prevalent)



## SYMPTOMATIC REACTIONS, CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND PATIENT SATISFACTION ASSOCIATED WITH UPPER CERVICAL CHIROPRACTIC CARE: A PROSPECTIVE MULTICENTER, COHORT STUDY

(ERICKSEN K, ROCHESTER R, HURWITZ E. BIOMEDCENT MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS 2011, 12:219)

- ICA Best Practices
- Lower Back Pain N=4,661
- 8.3 OV (adj. each visit)
- 42.6% improvement based on NRS
- Neck Pain N= 2,069
- Neck Pain N= 2,069

7.7 OV

46.5% improvement based on NRS

- UCT Improvements based on I Ipt-NRS
- Headache: 62.8%
- Neck Pain: 56.8%
- Mid Back Pain: 58.6%
- Low Back Pain: 57%

<sup>&</sup>quot;A direct comparison can not be made due to differing patient populations and other reasons. It can be said that UCT fairs well when judged against the published guidelines and other studies in terms of patient safety and clinical Efficacy."



#### **CASE STUDY**

20 year old Female patient began care 5/2017.

Concussion December 2016

MVA 5 2017 20mph Rear ended

She was experiencing daily chronic moderate to severe headaches, Skull base pain, Neck pain, Cognitive difficulty, Visual disturbances and Nausea.

CO-managed with Naturopathic Doctor

Neuro-Optometry

Biofeedback

First adjustment day MVA!

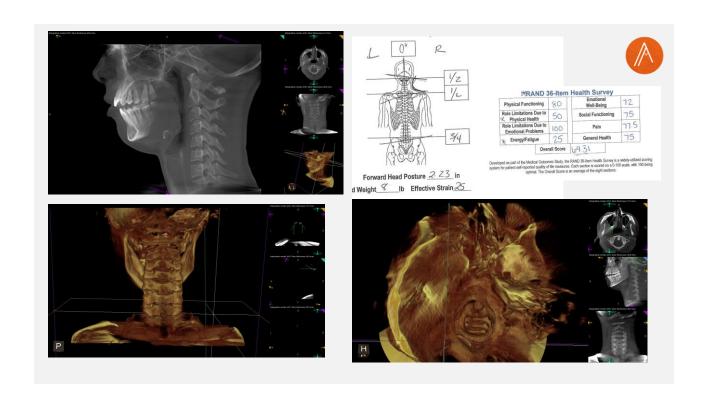
	Cerv	Pain	Lumb	Pain	
Flex	60	+	90	-	
Ext	70	+	30	+	Nausea
R Lat Flex	75	-	35	+	
L Lat Flex	65	+	35	sl	
R Rot	60	+	20	+	
L Rot	80	+	30	-	

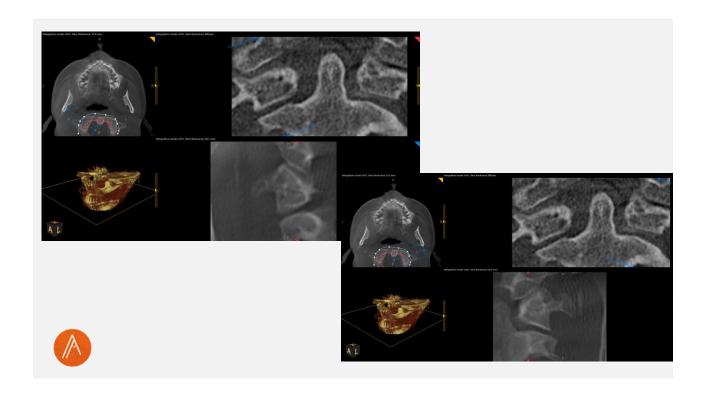
Muscle spasm: Sup Obl L, Inf Obl R, SCM R, Lev R

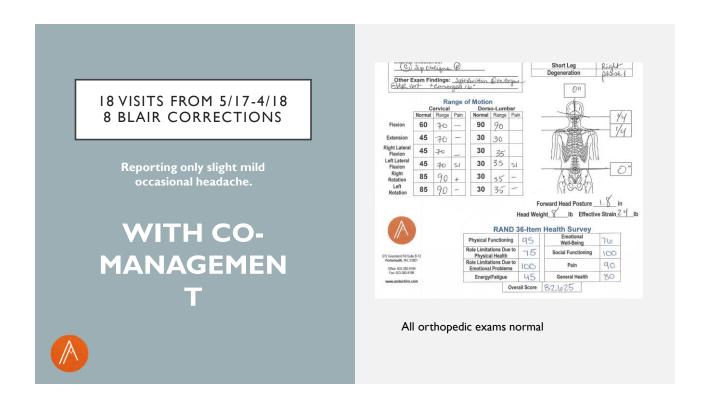
- +Foramina Comp Bi
- +Jackson Comp Right
- +Shoulder Depression Right
- +Spurling Test Right
- + Convergence Insufficiency @ 16"
- +VOR Vert (dizziness, nausea)
- + CN XI Left

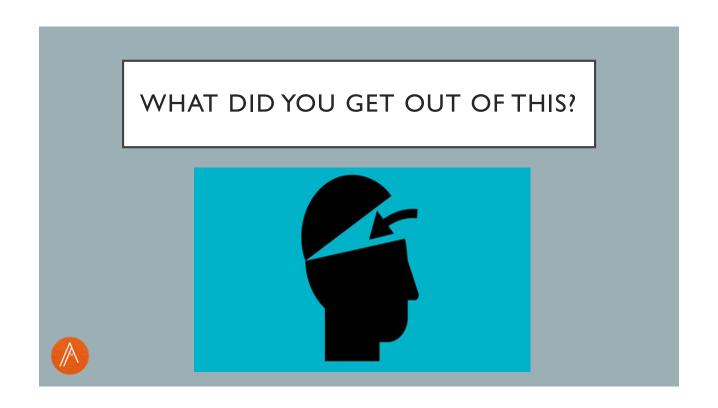
### WHICH CATEGORY OF PCS?













International Chiropractic
Association

Council on Upper Cervical Care

Blair Society

**State Organization** 

Haavik Research-The Reality Check

**\$\$ The Subaru and the Scion \$\$** 





The quality of your life is dictated by the questions that you ask



IN REVIEW...

- Overview of Concussion and PCS
  - YOU ARE SEEING THESE CASES!
- Feel supported by the literature
  - WHO's been to a paraprofessional conference?
  - They vs. Us: ½ of the energy!
- Co-management begins with certainty in what you do and knowing what others do.
   Speaking the language



