



22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006

## **Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine; April 2006**

### **British Chiropractic Association Disputes Findings**

#### **A systematic review of systematic reviews of spinal manipulation.**

Ernst E, Canter PH. Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine Vol 20 April 2006, pp189-193.

The British Chiropractic Association is disappointed that the Royal Society of Medicine would publish such a biased article in its journal.

Ernst and Canter have carefully selected negative articles in support of their conclusion that manipulation cannot be recommended as a treatment when national clinical practice guidelines, based on much more and better research than the studies this article has selected, has come to exactly the opposite conclusion.

The usefulness of manipulation is that it can be added, substituted or modified as part of a package of care that provides management, pain control, advice and recognises risks to a good recovery. Recent clinical trials funded by the Medical Research Council (UK BEAM 2004) show that manipulation is effective and cost-effective within such a package for back pain.

Professor Ernst has a track record of disparaging not only the chiropractic profession but also other similarly regulated healthcare professions.

-ends-

**Press enquiries: Jon Temerlies/Liz Harding/Julie Doyle, icas public relations**

**Tel: 020 7632 2400, Fax: 020 7240 2520 Email: [lharding@icas.co.uk](mailto:lharding@icas.co.uk)**

## **Notes to Editors**

*BCA chiropractors see tens of thousands of patients each day and are able to provide a safe and effective form of treatment that keeps people of all ages healthy and happy.*

The BCA represents well over 50% of UK chiropractors, with over 1200 practising members. Members of the BCA abide by a strict code of ethics and the association only accepts graduates who have gone through a minimum four-year full-time internationally-accredited degree course at an internationally-recognised college of chiropractic education. There are two fully UK and Internationally accredited education institutions in the UK; the Anglo European College of Chiropractic (AECC) and Welsh Institute of Chiropractic at the University of Glamorgan (WIOC).

In common with other health professions, chiropractic is regulated by Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom. The Chiropractors Act 1994 is a good example of modern legislation and it gives strong powers to the regulatory body, the General Chiropractic Council ([www.gcc-uk.org](http://www.gcc-uk.org)) The GCC's main responsibilities are to: protect patients; set standards of conduct, practice and education; develop and promote the practice of chiropractic. The BCA ensures its chiropractors maintain high standards of conduct, practice, education and training within the profession and throughout their careers.

Chiropractic care offers hands on pain management and focuses on muscles, joints and nerves. Chiropractic is suitable for all ages and can help with a wide range of aches and pains from head to toe. Chiropractors use their hands to 'adjust' or 'manipulate' the spine and joints where signs of restriction in movement are found and can also involve working on muscles. This restores normal function to the affected muscles, joints and nerves allowing the body to then get on with the job of healing itself.

To find out more information about the BCA please visit [www.chiropractic-uk.co.uk](http://www.chiropractic-uk.co.uk) or call 0118 950 5950