

Policy statement by Chiropractic Australia on paediatric care

Modern chiropractic primarily involves the diagnosis and management of disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system affecting all ages. While the treatment of adults remains the majority of chiropractic practice, chiropractors commonly attend to the care of infants and children.

Just as in the treatment of adults, when chiropractors are called on to care for children the treatment goals must not be in conflict with the best available clinical evidence. In situations where the available evidence is incomplete or poor it is important that parents are fully advised of the evidence base for the proposed treatment and that conservative goals are set. Commonly, a trial of treatment may be undertaken in such circumstances before making a final decision on the best course of management. This is especially important in cases where the primary symptom may be non-musculoskeletal in nature.

A collaborative approach in the delivery of care is recommended as part of a patient centred approach. Caring for children brings with it additional responsibilities for health professionals and in providing chiropractic paediatric care practitioners must ensure they practice within their limits of competence, training and experience.

Suggested reading

1. Calvo-Munoz I, Gomez-Conesa A, Sanchez-Meca J. Prevalence of low back pain in children and adolescents: a meta-analysis. *BMC pediatrics* 2013;**13**:14 doi: 10.1186/1471-2431-13-14[published Online First: Epub Date] | .
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3. Jeffries LJ, Milanese SF, Grimmer-Somers KA. Epidemiology of adolescent spinal pain: a systematic overview of the research literature. *Spine (Phila Pa 1976)* 2007;**32**(23):2630-7 doi: 10.1097/BRS.0b013e318158d70b[published Online First: Epub Date] | .
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5. Tuchin PJ, Pollard H, Bonello R. A randomized controlled trial of chiropractic spinal manipulative therapy for migraine. *Journal of manipulative and physiological therapeutics* 2000;**23**(2):91-5 doi: 10.1016/s0161-4754(00)90073-3[published Online First: Epub Date] | .

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