



# Exercising compassion through chiropractic radiography & radiology

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**Abstract:** Chiropractors exercise compassion through their care and at times there may be indications seen on a patient's X-rays that could modify or withhold such care. A radiologist's opinion can allow adjustive care to be applied by the clinician as clinically indicated. This care reports a patient with a vertebral hemangioma.

**Indexing Terms:** chiropractic; radiology; radiography; compassion; vertebral hemangioma

## X-ray case of the issue

A chiropractor sent us the x-rays of 33y female with neck and back pain, and unexplained 40 lb (18 kg) weight loss in the past 6 months. The concern was for the lesion at C7, given the unexplained weight loss. Even though the chiropractor was aware that it could be a *hemangioma*, he was unsure, and out of compassion for the patient, he contacted us for a second opinion and we able to say with absolute certainty that this is a *benign hemangioma* and was not a contraindication to chiropractic spinal adjustments.

Unfortunately, the patient was lost to follow-up and we were unable to determine the cause of weight loss.

## Vertebral Hemangiomas

Hemangiomas commonly occur at the skin surface, frequently in newborns, and the same entity can occur in the spine and rather commonly, in the vertebral body. Approximately 11% of the adult population has at least one vertebral hemangioma. Plain radiography is insensitive to most hemangiomas because they are usually small and do not alter the trabecula like you see in this case, so they are a rare finding on x-ray. However, they are seen very frequently on CT and MRI because of their increased sensitivity.

Probably at least 99% of vertebral hemangiomas are benign and of no real significance, however a very small number may be symptomatic. In those cases adjusting is only relative contraindication, but an MRI is needed for better evaluation, and surgery may be needed in some cases. The classic

... Compassion reflects informed care and here a radiographic finding was professionally interpreted to allow adjustive care'



'corduroy cloth' or 'honeycomb trabecula' appearance is almost pathognomonic. A reasonable alternative possibility in an older patient would be Paget disease.

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**Cite:** Tao C. Exercising compassion through chiropractic radiography & radiology. URL Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2022;3.2. URL [apcj.net/Papers-Issue-3-2/#CompassionTao](http://apcj.net/Papers-Issue-3-2/#CompassionTao)

Readers may contact Dr Tao for authoritative radiographic interpretation

