

Chiropractic care for a child presenting with autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and retained primitive reflexes: A case report [Abstract]

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Indexing terms: Chiropractic; SOT; autism; ADHD; Category One; Moro reflex; Asymmetric Tonic Neck Reflex ATNR; Quality of Life.



Objective:

To explore novel chiropractic care for a child presenting with autism, (ADHD), and retained primitive reflexes.

Clinical Features:

A 7-year-old male patient was brought to this clinic by his Mother for supportive care. At age 4 he was diagnosed with autism and ADHD. His mother had to pull him out of school to homeschool due to his inability to follow directions, loud outbursts, inability to sit still and emotional dysregulation.

Intervention/Outcome:

Due to his history, we proceeded with a general paediatric chiropractic exam and began testing for primitive reflex retention. The most notable retained primitive reflexes were the Moro reflex and Asymmetric Tonic Neck Reflex (ATNR). At the initial office visit he was treated with sacro occipital technique (SOT) category one (pelvic torsion with compromised sacral nutation) protocol and was also treated for occipital restriction. He was given specific home exercises to help integrate his care.

At his second office visit his Moro reflex had improved, however there was no improvement in the ATNR. His mother reported that he had not been performing the home exercises for the ATNR so the lack of improvement was attributed to this. On the 3rd visit, the ATNR was tested in both the

standing and quadruped positions prior to treatment. Arm drift was found bilaterally in both positions. After treatment re-test showed moderate improvement in arm drift when turning to the Left, however no improvement when turning to the Right. While the patient was standing, more occipital release was performed and the ATNR was re-tested again. After performing the standing occipital release, the ATNR test was negative bilaterally in standing and quadruped positions. At the following visit, the ATNR was still negative when tested in both the standing and quadruped positions.

Conclusion:

Chiropractic care for this patient appeared to have a positive effect on the child's behaviour and Quality of Life (child and care givers). It appeared in this case that performing occipital release while standing rather than supine had a significant impact on the patient's integration of the ATNR.

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Cite: Matson D. Chiropractic care for a child presenting with autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and retained primitive reflexes: A case report [Abstract]. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2025;6.2. www.apcj.net/SOT-Abstracts-2025/#MatsonADHD

About the practitioner



Diana Matson DC, CSCP is a graduate of Palmer West, where her foundational interest in Sacro Occipital Technique (SOT) and integrative care through collaboration with other healthcare providers took root. Diana currently practices in the scenic Sacramento foothills of California. Her love of yoga and trail running have cultivated a passion for movement that naturally extends into her patient care. She specialises in treating children and young adults, employing both SOT and SOT cranial techniques. A key focus of her approach involves the integration of breath-work and primitive reflex patterns to support optimal health and development.

