

Visual cranial analysis: Palpation of the supine patient's mastoid process position: An investigational study

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Indexing terms: Chiropractic; SOT; mastoid process; visual assessment.



Introduction:

The field of chiropractic has various types of assessment tools used to pre and post evaluate the need for a therapeutic intervention and if that method was successful. This study looked at investigating visual cranial analysis as a method of assessing the structural and functional status of the cranial bones.

Clinical Considerations:

Clinical applications have found that visual analysis has its strengths and limitations, especially in adults who have established bone growth in the cranium. The strength might be that position and shapes of the bones and their articulations show long-term patterns of tension and dysfunction. A weakness can be that commonly asymmetry in growth and development is not that unusual so a cranial bone may appear to be dysfunctional from a structural standpoint but functionally compensated.

Future Research:

DeJarnette's premise of Sacro Occipital Technique relates to a reciprocal movement of the cranium (occiput) and sacroiliac joint suggesting that these regions tend to mirror themselves as the bones positionally compensate for each other. With this concept in mind this investigator has observed with the placement of the index fingers under the mastoid tip of a patient in the supine position to almost always show a left finger inferior in position relative to the right. This occurs regardless of sacroiliac joint hypermobility or fixation, functional short leg, upper cervical or occipital subluxation or any other finding in the spine or extremities.

Conclusion:

Further investigation is warranted to see why the same finding in the cranium would exist regardless of other findings in the body. What might be the cause of this finding and is there reliability between testers of different level of chiropractic palpatory experience?

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About the practitioner



Daniel Tuttle, BA, DC, MSW, QEEG is both a Chiropractic Physician and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is a licensed QEEG Diplomate and has practiced Neurofeedback for 16 years. He led the first randomised control study on the effects of SOT chiropractic adjustments on the brain using qEEG analysis. He practices in Clearwater, Florida using both licenses to develop innovative methods of treating both the mind and body. Dr. Tuttle has extensive experience in treating patients utilising SOT, cranial, and innovative TMJ treatment and assessment procedures.



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