

Chiropractic Management of Deformational Plagiocephaly - A Pilot Study

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ABSTRACT

Objective:

To investigate the effect of chiropractic in the management of non-synostotic deformational plagiocephaly in infants.

Method:

30 infants with a typical parallelogram shaped head deformity, all otherwise in excellent health, were selected and treated in a chiropractic paediatric clinic. The angle of the ear was measured in relationship to the skull using a goniometer. The same measurement was carried out after every chiropractic treatment. The age, number of treatments, and duration of care to resolution were also recorded.

Results:

90.6% (27) achieved resolution of the plagiocephaly. 9.3% (2) were left with mild residual plagiocephaly. There was predominance for right-sided plagiocephaly, which was present in 66% of cases (19). The average number of treatments to resolution was 2. The average age of the infant at initial presentation was 15 weeks, and the average duration of care was 5 months. The average angle of the ear was 18.2°.

Conclusion:

This small cohort study suggests that chiropractic care may be useful in treating infants suffering from plagiocephaly. The results of this pilot study are encouraging, but studies with control groups need to be carried out before drawing any final conclusions.