

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

A Critical Analysis of the Reality Distortion of Chiropractic Among Scientists with Constructive Criticism of the Current Debate

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Abstract

Objective: To contribute to matters raised in debate proposing a division of conventional chiropractic. We examine these matters in the context of the history of the profession and contemporary debate.

Methods: Document analysis within the methods of historical narrative was applied to arguments identified in a contemporary debate to derive and then present evidence to inform the debate.

Results: Our analysis reveals reality distortion of chiropractic among scientists from the associated disciplines of biomechanics and rehabilitation therapies. We locate this distortion as sitting within the 'European School' of chiropractic. No evidence is found to support the proposition that chiropractic is 'an unhappy

family' and headed for divorce and evidence refutes the proposition to divide Traditional chiropractic.

Conclusions: We conclude that the debate initiated by the European School of chiropractic is confused, presenting an allegorical allusion with no argument and no evidential support. It demonstrates a low level of scholarship and as such may have the intent of virtue-signaling where evidence-free opinion may be expressed without the responsibility of justification.

Keywords: *chiropractic; manipulation; subluxation; adjustment; scientific debate; tone; conservative; traditional health care.*

Introduction

Chiropractic science comprises several intellectual strands. A long tradition is evident of an association between subluxed vertebra and the nervous system. Within chiropractic's first decade a second strand emerged and persists, a strand that accepts therapies beyond a 'hand only, spine only' model. There are also strands woven through the matters of cause and effect, with one insisting that the only relationship between subluxed vertebra and the patient is range of motion (ROM) and pain, and another insisting that the relationship is far more complex and extends to matters of health and well-

being. And of course there are deviant, minor strains which at one extreme argue there is no such thing as subluxed vertebrae and no effects other than the modulation of pain through the primitive gating theory evidenced by improvement documented on various outcomes instruments, and at the other that subluxation is the sole cause of disease. Neither extreme is acceptable to us.

The centrality of subluxation to current debate is evident in argument by Leboeuf-Yde et al (LY).¹ They are largely

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