



A Critique of a Critique of Vectored Adjusting

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In the 1980 November-December issue of *Chiropractic Economics* D. A. Molthen suggests that vectored adjusting may be more theoretical than plausible when some of the premises of upper cervical adjusting are examined more closely. This paper is an attempt to answer Molthen's concerns. We would like to note Molthen's article has generated considerable attention among upper cervical adjusters about the assumptions under which they operate, and this is healthy. It is healthy for chiropractors to dialogue differences of opinion openly and rationally and for this we thank Dr. Molthen.

There are three major points in Molthen's article that we want to respond to: 1. rectilinear motion, 2. head placement and rotation and 3. head placement and laterality.

Rectilinear Motion

Molthen states that the ideal force required to reduce a subluxated atlas is rectilinear and may be applied either by means of an adjusting gun or manually. Molthen feels that it is virtually impossible for the human body to deliver a rectilinear force. He uses the example of a person attempting to shoot pool using the pisaform contact and the arms instead of a pool cue. We know in sports that it is possible to put "english" on a cue ball which produces a curvilinear path and that it is possible to throw a straight ball in bowling if the body angles are properly aligned when delivering the ball.

Perhaps it is appropriate to review a few kinesiological principles concerning motion (Gowitzke & Milner, 1980). The human body exhibits two basic types of motion which is either translatory (linear), or angular. Translatory motion, the moving of the body from one location to the other either moves

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in a straight line or in a curved line. Angular motion occurs when a body rotates around a fixed axis (Groves & Camaione, 1975). These same principles can be used to explain the conversion of curvilinear motion into rectilinear motion in manual adjusting.

Manual adjusting need not be inefficient when the triceps pull is used as the principle energy delivery system. The adjuster's ability to convert angular motion to linear motion is dependent upon the adjuster's understanding the necessary steps preparatory to the triceps pull. If the adjuster has aligned the reduction pathway (horizontal resultant) with the notch-transverse resultant, delivery of the rectilinear force to the atlas will occur. If these two planes are not coplanar the energy generated by the triceps pull will be curvilinear. The effect of delivering a curvilinear force is to render an improper horizontal resultant, because the final vector of the resultant will either increase or decrease the height vector. (See Figure 1.) If the

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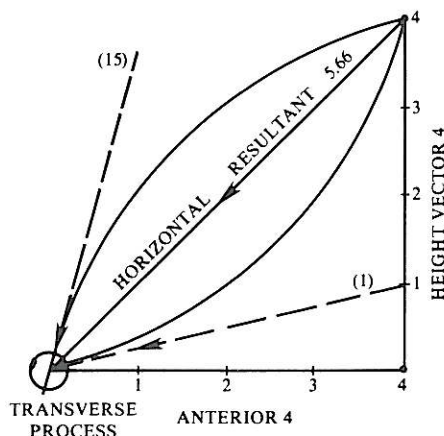


FIGURE 1

The effect of delivering a curvilinear adjustment to the transverse process.

A Kinesiological Basis for the C-1 Adjustment

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THE PROBLEM

Mechanically inept adjusting is too frequently used to restore the C-1 subluxation's misalignment factors to the vertical axis. Adjusting a C-1 subluxation as the case with any motor skill is based on the use of relevant anatomic and mechanical principles of human motion, i.e., kinesiology. The adjuster who seeks to improve his skills can achieve a higher level of performance by understanding and applying basic kinesiological principles to the adjustment. The purpose of this paper is to discuss some of these kinesiological principles as they relate to the C-1 adjustment.

Greater skill is required to adjust the C-1 than any other vertebra in the spinal column. Anatomically, the load bearing responsibility of the occipital-atlanto-axial facets is different from the other segments due to the absence of a disk between C-1 and C-2. The facets are crucial to structural stability in the area.¹ Neurologically, the occipital-atlanto-axial complex is different also, because of the close proximity to the brain stem and the medullary structures, more space is allocated for the spinal cord to reduce impingement by any bony structures. The requirement for structural stability and for a reasonable amount of movement for the skull and the cervical unit make this segment of the spinal column the most unique and demanding for the adjuster.

Steindler reports that movement of

(Continued page two)

the intervertebral joints is contingent upon the shape of the articular facets.² The facets, therefore, determine the type, the direction and the range of motion of the subluxation. According to White and Panjabi, in the cervical spine the facets are located 45° to the frontal plane with 0° rotation to the frontal plane. In the thoracic spine the facets are positioned at 60° to the frontal plane with 20° of rotation to the frontal plane, and with the lumbar spine the facets are positioned 90° to the frontal plane and rotated 45° to the frontal plane.³ The expectation is that with each of the three major spinal units the intervertebral movement will vary with the angle set of the facet. As the load bearing responsibility shifts from facet to disc at the various levels of the spine the combinations of movement become more restrictive between the vertebrae. The number of reduction pathways is also reduced which would tend to lessen the adjusting skill required to reduce the subluxation. By the same logic, as the facets assume more of the load responsibility as is found in occipital-atlanto-axial complex where there is no disc, adjusting requires skill and proficiency due to the infinite number of reduction pathway combinations.

There is also evidence to support the theory that a C-1 subluxation stresses the entire spinal column. In a 1978 study by Seemann it was found that without exception that a patient who had a C-1 subluxation as determined by x-ray, also exhibited pelvic distortion, a short leg, and spinal imbalance.⁴ The spinal stress is the result of a neurological imbalance between the facilitatory and inhibitory mechanisms of the reticular formation of the brain stem. Spastic contracture of the extensor muscles is caused from the loss of inhibitory control as C-1 moves outside its normal range of motion. This abnormal movement is thought to be responsible for the C-1 syndrome: pelvic distortion, short (contractured) leg and spinal imbalance. The Seemann study also reported that alleviation of the C-1 syndrome necessitates correcting the C-1 misalignments. At no other level of the spinal column can correcting a subluxation remedy the syndrome.

MEASURING METHODS

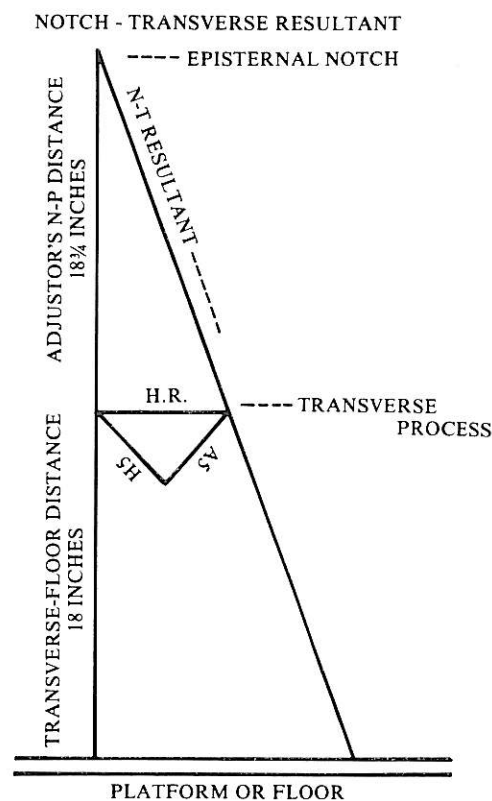
An analysis of the C-1 adjustic motor skill can be divided into two major categories: anatomic and mechanical. It is with the mechanical that this paper is chiefly concerned. An analysis of both categories is lengthy, and would defeat the purpose of this paper which is to briefly acquaint the C-1 adjuster with a few basic mechanical principles that should aid in more efficient and easier adjusting.

The most conclusive proof of the degree of efficient performance is the post x-ray. Thousands of x-rays (taken immediately after the C-1 adjustment) have been analyzed to determine the degree of performance. This study has been carried out for over thirty years. Adjustic innovations have been examined to determine their value in the motor skill, adopted, modified, or rejected. The mechanical contents discussed in this paper have all been subjected to post x-ray analysis.

Another valuable tool for determining efficient performance of the C-1 motor skill is the anatometer which measures the amount of spinal column and bodily distortion caused by a C-1 subluxation. Because the anatometer measures the correction, or degree of correction following an adjustment of C-1, the instrument can indicate dramatically if a correction of C-1 has occurred.

Video-tapes provide another tool when used in practice sessions. Because these tapes can be stopped or "frozen" at any point, a detailed study can be made of each step for any adjustic phase.

Another device of great value in practicing the adjustic motor skill is the light pattern study. Because all adjustments must be delivered so that the action lines, or parallel forces, of the adjuster's body are coplanar with the notch-transverse resultant (reduction pathway) to achieve rectilinear motion (Fig. 1), the light pattern device is especially valuable in conditioning the adjuster's body planes to the reduction pathway of the C-1 subluxation. A harness is attached to the adjuster's body which contains two small spotlights that represent his parallel forces. In a dimly lighted room, the adjuster



The reduction pathway (N-T Resultant) computed from x-rays and the adjuster's episternal notch to transverse distance for a C-1 subluxation requiring vertical and horizontal vectors of 5 inches.

may study his movements throughout the several phases of the adjustment, determining their accuracy and the alignment of his parallel forces to the reduction pathway in the final or kinetic phase.

DISCUSSION

Gowitzke and Milner define a motor skill as a group of simple, natural movements combined in a new or unusual manner to achieve a predetermined objective.⁵ The C-1 adjustic motor skill is a series of simple and natural angular motions performed to achieve rectilinear or straight line motion in the final or kinetic phase of the adjustment along a predetermined pathway computed from the x-ray film analysis. This predetermined pathway is the reduction pathway along which motion must be expressed if correction of the C-1 subluxation complex is to be achieved. Each C-1 subluxation has its own reduction pathway which is represented by the notch-transverse resultant (Fig. 1).

The simple, natural angular movements of the adjuster are referred to as the potential phases of the adjustment. They are movements the total of which are designed to produce linear motion in the final or kinetic phase in which the adjustment is delivered.

MOTION: Motion has been described as the change of position of an object, or, more technically, as the act or process of changing position or place with respect to some reference point. Rasch and Burke define three general types of motion: Rectilinear or translatory, angular or rotatory, and curvilinear. Rectilinear motion takes place when every particle of a body moves the same distance along a straight line which is parallel to the path of every other particle. In angular or rotary motion, each particle of a rigid body moves in a circle or along the arc of a circle. The center of rotation, or "axle" of the rotation may either be within the volume of the body, as in the case of a pirouetting dancer, or outside the body, as in the case of a gymnast swinging on the flying rings.⁶

These definitions of motion should alert the adjuster to the importance of using care and control when he exercises the potential phases of the adjustment. Care and control are so essential to his expression of rectilinear motion in the kinetic phase. To express rectilinear motion, the adjuster must know the external reference points, and be conscious of the joint centers of motion about which he moves in performing the potential phases. He should also be aware of the degree to which he moves about any given joint or axis of motion.

LOCK-ACTIONS: The use of lock-actions aid the adjuster in achieving the required body balance and muscular control needed to produce rectilinear motion. Anderson defines a body lock-action as "putting a (body) part into a position which will automatically stabilize other parts of the body and lead to a more efficient action with a minimum of effort".

Anderson states that the first of these two reflex actions, the neck-lock action, is accomplished by pulling the chin inward which straightens the

cervical spine, stimulates retraction of the shoulders, and stabilizes the spinal column. The second, or foot-lock action, according to Anderson, is initiated by turning the feet medialward with the plantar surfaces in contact with the supporting surface; some pressure (weight) therefore is on the soles of the feet and the act is executed from the heel. It is this pressure on the plantar surfaces of the feet that activates the reflex action, stimulating a chain of muscular action upward throughout the adjuster's body. The ankle and knee joints automatically lock, maintaining stability.⁷

The importance of the neck-lock action to the adjuster, other than balancing and positioning his shoulder level and spinal lever, is that it allows for easier and more complete contraction of his triceps brachii because the adjuster's spinal column, chest, and head are stabilized. The reflex serves, furthermore, to protect the adjuster against whiplash during the adjustic act.

Another lock-action, the hip lock, maintains the adjuster's pelvic lever at right angles to his spinal lever. This act is executed in the first, or approach, phase of the adjustment. In performing the phases of the adjustment, the tendency for the adjuster's pelvic lever to turn about the lumbo-sacral joint is great, particularly when he advances his leg to establish the A-P distance of his base of support. If his pelvic lever rotates about his lumbo-sacral joint, his body shortens on the side of the forwardly placed foot, curving his spinal lever. Consequently, curvilinear motion is expressed in the kinetic phase of the adjustment, and the parallel forces turn from the reduction pathway. This error prevents reduction of the C-1 subluxation, especially of rotations and high lines of drive.

These lock-actions are frequently overlooked by the adjuster. As a result a loss of synergic action takes place in the adjuster's body which leads to difficult performance of the motor skill and curvilinear motion in the final phase because of unbalanced muscular motion.

The action lines, or parallel forces, of the adjustic motor skill may be

compared to the sights on a rifle. An adjustment, like a rifle, is aimed at a target. In the case of the rifle, the alignment of the sights determines accuracy; in the case of an adjustment, the adjuster's alignment of his parallel forces decides if the energy generated by the motor skill enters the target (transverse process) along the reduction pathway prescribed by the film analysis. Control of joint motion, muscular balance, and stability are essential elements for obtaining efficient performance.

FORCE: Force is frequently defined as a push or pull exerted to overcome resistance. Force is the instigator of motion. Everything that moves does so because a force is applied. The direction of the force, its magnitude, and the point of its application are the three most important aspects of force.

Force is a vector quantity because it possesses both magnitude and direction. Having these characteristics, it can be dangerous if misused, uncontrolled, or misdirected. It is the element that can make adjustments dangerous. Uncontrolled force in the C-1 adjustment produces depth which, if it exceeds the resistance offered by the subluxation, prevents reduction of the C-1 vertebra about the occipital condyles, transferring the excess force to the superior articulating surfaces of C-2. A kinking of the cervical spine at its weakest point—the atlas-axis articulation—results. This is very traumatic to the patient, because it increases the disequilibrium of the cervical spine, ultimately causing more subluxation. The skill of the C-1 adjuster is predicated on his ability to control and direct force.

Adjustic force is initiated by contracting the triceps brachii muscles along their line of pull. The line of pull is a straight line between the insertion of the muscle in the olecranon process of the ulnar and the origin of the long head in the infraglenoid tuberosity of the scapula. The direction of the line of pull (in the adjustic posture) is upward and somewhat medialward.

Muscles can pull from origin to insertion or from insertion to origin, a concept known as functional reversibility.⁸ The customary function of the

triceps brachii is to adduct and extend the forearm; in the adjustic act, this function is reversed so that the inertia of the shoulder joint can be overcome.

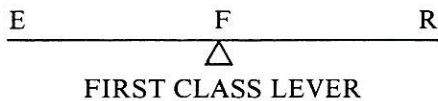
The triceps muscle has the pulley action of a biaxial (two-joint) muscle. That is, it acts over the shoulder and elbow joints. A characteristic of a biaxial muscle is that it is too short to permit complete movement at the same time of both the joints it crosses. In the C-1 adjustic motor skill, the action of the triceps is concentrated at the shoulder joints.

Kinesiologists explain that the pectoral or shoulder girdle can be compared to a three-link chain. Movements at the glenohumeral joint are always accompanied by accommodating movements of associated osseous structures.⁹ If accommodation did not occur, the primary movement would be inhibited. In the C-1 adjustment the primary movement is the upward and inward movement of the humeri, initiated by the triceps brachii contraction as the adjuster contracts the muscles from a point about two inches below the glenohumeral joints. To obtain maximal action in the primary movement, the shoulder girdle must compress, the scapulae move medialward, and the episternal notch slightly extend.

The principle of the transfer of momentum states that the body is frequently put into motion by transferring momentum from a part of the body to the total body mass.¹⁰ The efficient adjuster utilizes this principle when he contracts his triceps brachii, which action compresses his shoulder girdle and overcomes its inertia. Momentum is thereby transferred to his body mass. At the moment of shoulder girdle activation, potential energy is converted into kinetic energy.

In terms of levers, the shoulder girdle is the resistance, or the load to be moved, the glenohumeral joints are the fulcra, and the contracting triceps brachii are the effort. As used in the adjustic action, this constitutes a lever of the first class: effort, fulcrum, and resistance (Fig. 2).

Efficient movement in a motor skill requires that levers having the largest mass possess the greatest inertia, and



E (Effort): Triceps brachii contraction

F (Fulcrum): Shoulder joint axis of motion

R (Resistance): Shoulder girdle.

FIG. 2

therefore should move first in the sequence of movement. Smaller levers, because they possess less inertia, should move later in the sequence.¹¹ The lever with the greatest mass in the adjustment is the shoulder lever; therefore, it should move first in the adjustic action. The elbow, composed of smaller levers, should move after the shoulder lever in the sequence. When the elbows move first, too little efficient action results, because far less momentum is transferred to the adjuster's body mass. Consequently, the adjuster's body does not back up the adjustment, and little, if any, follow-through is expressed. Loss of vertebral reduction results. For these reasons, so-called recoil adjusting is a less effective means for correcting C-1 subluxations.

It should be clear by now that the resistance to be overcome by the adjustic motor skill is *not* the resistance offered by the C-1 misalignment factors; the resistance is the shoulder girdle which represents a relatively large load for the triceps to move. This load-resistance is greater than that offered by any C-1 subluxation.

It should be mentioned that speed of muscle contraction is of little value in overcoming resistance. In fact, speed violates the principle that the greater the speed of contraction, the less force generated or load moved, and the greater the load, the less the velocity of shortening.¹² Maximal contraction of the triceps is the requirement for efficient performance. To obtain maximal contraction, however, shoulder girdle resistance must be overcome. If the load (shoulder girdle) is equal to the force (triceps contraction), the result is zero.

If the adjuster consciously relaxes his shoulder musculature just prior to contracting his triceps, he will reduce the resistance to the triceps effort. At

the exact moment of triceps contraction, the adjuster should allow his shoulders to move slightly posterior while at the same time squeezing them medialward. These resistance-reducing actions must be timed with the triceps contraction. Resistance is reduced because these actions start the movement of the associated osseous structures—the clavicles, scapulae, and the episternal notch extension—immediately prior to the triceps contraction.

The tendency for adjusters to tighten their shoulder musculature is quite common. When they do this, they increase the resistance to the triceps effort. Until their triceps muscles are sufficiently developed, they can practice the resistance-reducing methods described above. Feedback can be obtained by practicing against a door-jamb or other immovable structure. If the adjuster rolls-in, places his contact-hand pisiform bone against the door-jamb and contracts (pulls) his triceps muscles from a point about two inches below his shoulder joints, his shoulder girdle will be compressed, forced backward and inward. This is the desired action in the C-1 adjustment. If it proves difficult, it is being done incorrectly.

The concept of overcoming shoulder girdle resistance appears difficult for adjusters to master, because they think in terms of the vertebrae, or the subluxation, as the resistance to the C-1 adjustment. Therefore, they direct the force into the subluxation. If they understand that the true resistance is their own shoulder girdle, they will direct the adjustic force into it, not into the patient's neck. Furthermore, the adjustic force is controlled and more accurately directed, thus more effective. It can be adapted to the degree of subluxation resistance which varies with different cases. Trauma to the patient is avoided, because any force that too greatly exceeds the resistance of the subluxation is traumatic to the patient. It may be compared to using a crowbar to move a pebble.

An efficient C-1 adjustment, therefore, is not accomplished by entering a direct force into the patient's neck, whether that force is delivered manually or by an adjusting modality. A

directly applied force to the C-1 vertebrae can easily exceed its resistance which is small if all the conditions are compiled with. A directly applied force can move C-2 laterally as a unit when the desired action is to move C-1 about the condyles of occiput by moving it about the superior articulating surfaces of C-2, either down and around or up and around. Direct force tends to kink the cervical spine, if excessive, at the atlanto-axial articulation which blocks subluxation reduction, and may increase it.

A common misconception shared by many adjusters should be mentioned. This erroneous concept is that the forearms of the adjuster are forced outward by the triceps contraction against the locked or roll-in position of the hands. Two reasons argue against this concept: (1) that it uses the adjuster's elbows as the primary lever to overcome, and (2) that it obviates the concentration of bilateral forces at the pisiform bone of contract hand.

BASE OF SUPPORT: Accurate alignment of the adjuster's base of support to the horizontal resultant (see Fig. 3) of the C-1 subluxation is vitally

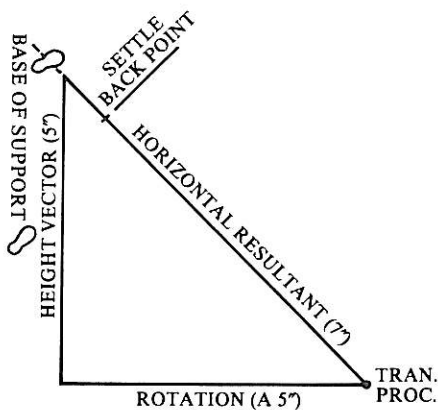


FIG. 3

Aligning the adjuster's feet (base of support) to the horizontal resultant.

important to the control of his center of gravity. Groves and Camaione define a base of support as the points in contact with the supporting surfaces and the two dimensional area between those points at contact.¹³ In the adjustic motor skill, the dimensions of the base of support are determined from the length of the horizontal resultant. That is, the longer the horizontal resultant, the more the A-P dimension must be

increased. The position of the base of support, however, is always at right angles to the horizontal resultant.

The horizontal resultant is the net effect of the direction of the forces required to restore normal position and equilibrium to the C-1 subluxation complex. The length of the resultant varies with the magnitude of the height (vertical) and rotation (horizontal) vectors which are computed from the x-ray films. The longer the horizontal resultant, the more conversion of the adjuster's body to a vertical plane is required to accommodate to the subluxation's larger misalignment factors; thus the A-P distance of the base must be increased. The width of the base is established by the distance between the adjuster's acetabular cavities. In all subluxations, however, the base of support is positioned one inch from the distal end of the horizontal resultant and one inch beyond it. This is the reference point and is called the settle-back point (see Fig. 3).

The location of the center of gravity of the body shifts when the body parts move.¹⁴ When performing the potential phases of the C-1 adjustment, the adjuster moves about several joint axes of motion which vary, of course, in different phases. To control his center of gravity, the adjuster must know and be aware of each joint center of motion and the degree of movement permitted in each act.

For example, in the first or approach phase the adjuster's mind must be concentrated on his acetabulum on the side of the leg which he places forward in establishing the A-P distance of the base of support. He must move solely from that joint, not permitting his lumbosacral joint to become involved in the act. In the second, or settleback phase, the adjuster's concentration must be on his acetabula as the centers of motion about which he moves his body backward as if down an inclined plane. In the turn-in phase, the adjuster turns his episternal notch over the contact point from the ankle joint centers of motion, using the rotatores of his legs to turn the body. In the conversion phase which brings the adjuster's episternal notch back to the settleback point on the horizontal resultant, the

center of motion takes place about an external reference point—the contact point—with which the adjuster's episternal notch is aligned. Each of these movements shifts the adjuster's center of gravity, and if any act is not performed from the correct joint center of motion and to the correct degree, the adjustic action lines or parallel forces will not be coplanar with the reduction pathway.

As the adjuster settles back at right angles to the horizontal resultant, his center of gravity tends to move toward the back of his base of support. Therefore, he loses stability; his weight is too far back on his heels. The remedy is to increase the A-P distance of the base of support by advancing the forward foot still more. This action brings the adjuster's center of gravity forward, restoring stability.

The remedy is effective if the base of support is correctly situated in relation to the horizontal resultant. Sometimes the base of support is established too far forward toward the horizontal resultant. More frequently, however, it is too far back from the horizontal resultant. In either case, the adjuster must start over, and reestablish his base. With some experience the procedure becomes automatic.

A guide to correctly establishing a base of support is to align it with the horizontal resultant. The adjuster notes where the horizontal resultant would pass, if extended, and places his forward foot in a position where the extended portion of the horizontal resultant would pass through the arch of his forward foot (see Fig. 3).

A problem often encountered by adjusters in the settleback phase is that of assumed inflexibility of back musculature. In settling back they reach a point where they can no longer continue the action. If they will consciously relax the back and pelvic musculature and permit the pelvis to turn still more vertically, they will considerably increase their settleback action. It is not the muscular inflexibility that creates the problem, but the failure of the pelvic girdle to assume a more vertical plane.

Conversion or angulation of the adjuster's body to a more vertical plane is

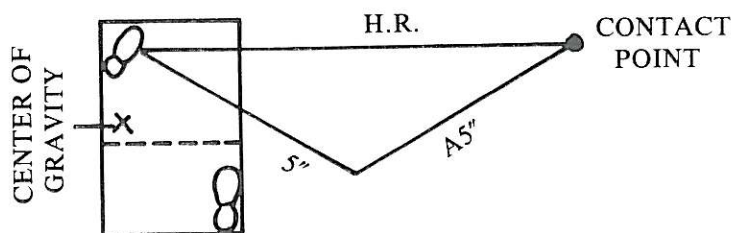


FIG. 4 (a)

Location of adjuster's center of gravity in Phases 1, 2, and in the final phase.

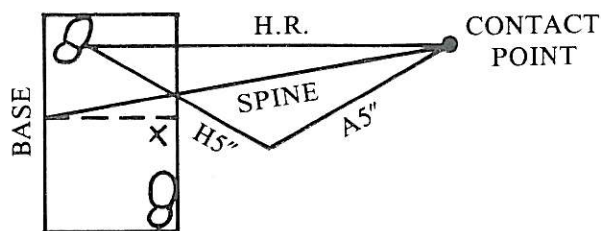


FIG. 4 (b)

Location of adjuster's center of gravity in Phase 3 (turn-in phase) after turning spinal lever over contact point.

an essential element in aligning the parallel forces with the reduction pathway. Conversion of the pelvic and shoulder levers takes place in the second, or settleback phase, and is caused by advancing the leg to conform with the A-P dimension of the base of support. Greater conversion occurs in the sixth or conversion phase. The procedure for executing the conversion phase is for the adjuster, immediately following roll-in and contact, to visualize a line from his shoulder on the side of his contact hand to the opposite hip. Along this imaginary line, the adjuster settles his body backward, allowing his shoulder and hip levers to turn to a more vertical plane as he does so.

The more the adjuster converts his body, the closer his center of gravity will approximate his forward foot. This action may be likened to tipping any elongated object; the line of gravity of the object always falls to the side of the base of support to which the object is tipped.

The adjuster starts to control his center of gravity in the first or approach phase, keeping it close to the distal side of his base or near his forwardly placed foot (Fig. 4a). As he settles back he maintains this relationship of gravity, or weight, to the base of support. In turning his body to bring his episternal notch over the contact point, the adjuster's center of gravity will shift to the proximal side of the base (Fig. 4b). As he executes the conversion or sixth phase, the adjuster's center of gravity will return to the distal side of the base. The greater the angulation or conversion of the adjuster's pelvic and shoulder levers, the faster will the center of gravity return to its original position.

Failure to properly angulate or convert the adjuster's body planes will increase laterality of C-1 in cases requiring a high or vertical vector. The spinous process of C-2 may rotate farther to the side of laterality, and subjacent vertebrae become more greatly misaligned. Cases necessitating a long rotation vector may result in still longer rotations.

Instability from any cause produces curvilinear motion. Parallel forces exist when the action lines of the adjustment parallel each other in time and in distance. Subluxation-reduction takes place only when the action lines from the adjuster's episternal notch and pelvic center of gravity align exactly with the reduction pathway. When this alignment is accomplished, the adjustic motor skill has been efficiently performed and maximal reduction of the subluxation's misalignment factors easily obtained.

FOLLOW-THROUGH: Follow-through in the adjustic motor skill is a continuation of the momentum generated by the triceps as they overcome the inertia of the adjuster's body. The activation of the adjuster's pectoral girdle transfers momentum to the adjuster's body, and a "pull" into the adjustment along the reduction pathway is experienced. This pull may be likened to the suction one feels when standing too close to a speeding train. The pull is not a body-drop which is initiated from the lumbo-sacral joint and which would introduce curvilinear motion, destroying the alignment of the parallel forces to the reduction pathway. Follow-through is a drawing of the adjuster's spinal lever into the adjustment in which the adjuster's episternal notch and pelvic center of

gravity, the sources of his parallel forces, move the same distance along the reduction pathway at the same time.

An adjustment involves movement at many body joints. Several anatomic levers, therefore, contribute to the production of adjustic force. The principle of the continuity of motion states that when a sequence of movements is employed in any motor skill, there should be no pause between them.¹⁵ That is to say, a fluid or uninterrupted motion should take place if efficiency is to be obtained, because a break in the continuity of motion reduces the force and momentum generated by the action of the levers.

A violation of the principle of the continuity of motion occurs when an adjuster's triceps do not contract equally. One muscle, usually the one on the side of the contact hand, contracts slower than the one on the side of the roll-in hand. The force and momentum of the pectoral girdle is reduced because the total motion is interrupted. This error will be reflected in the post x-rays by a loss of equal reduction in the subluxation's misalignment factors. That is, laterality and rotation will not reduce equally.

An effective completion of the adjustic action requires follow-through. If the adjuster prevents his spinal lever from continuing the action initiated by his triceps brachii contraction, effectiveness is decreased because the effect of the adjustic motion is shortened.

Follow-through also provides time (for the adjuster) to perceive feedback information.¹⁶

FEEDBACK: Feedback, or kinaesthesia (kinesthesia), according to Dor-

land's Medical Dictionary (1965), is the sense by which muscular motion, weight, position, etc. are perceived. To the adjuster, kinesthesia is his ability to perceive, or be aware of through his senses, his muscle and joint movements, the relative alignment of his body parts in space, and the distribution of his body weight. When the adjuster has "learned" to visualize the relative positions of his shoulder and pelvic levers in a given subluxation, and to perceive his parallel forces in relation to the reduction pathway, he will have automatically resolved most of his problems.

To master feedback requires concentration. To utilize it effectively the adjuster should make it a habit to practice with a subluxation listing. Different listings should be used. Following this procedure, the adjuster will eventually be able to "see" the position of his spinal, shoulder, and pelvic levers and to judge the accuracy of his parallel forces. The coordinator rubber top, as it moves, will tell him if the direction of his parallel forces aligns with the reduction pathway of the listing he is addressing. Feedback from the coordinator top will also tell him as it moves if he is expressing curvilinear motion. If the adjuster finds that he is expressing curvilinear motion, his base of support is probably not aligned to the horizontal resultant at the settle-back point, or he is not converting his body planes correctly, or is not locking his pelvis on the side of the forward leg. Another error that can cause the curvilinear problem is an incorrect relationship between the adjuster's center of gravity and base of support.

The manner in which the coordinator top depresses provides reliable feedback. Too frequently the rubber top moves straight downward. When this occurs it is obvious that the adjuster's parallel forces are not aligned to the reduction pathway, probably because of too little conversion of the adjuster's body planes. This error is corrected by increasing the A-P dimension of the base of support, by locking the hip on the side of the forward leg, or by correcting any unequal contraction of the triceps brachii. These errors can also cause the rubber top to move toward the adjuster.

If these errors occur in practice, they can also take place when adjusting a patient's subluxation, increasing the subluxation's misalignment factors and traumatizing the patient.

Feedback permits the adjuster to analyze his performance, and to make corrections where necessary. It is through his receptors that the adjuster receives input concerning his performance of the motor skill, and it provides the means whereby he improves his art.

CONCLUSIONS

This paper discusses the C-1 adjustment as a motor skill, subject in its performance to the relevant kinesiological principles and concepts that govern a motor skill. This paper suggests how upper cervical adjusters might improve their level of performance through a more complete understanding and proper application of these principles. The need to treat the C-1 subluxation as separate from those subluxations of subjacent vertebrae because of biomechanical and kinesiological reasons is also indicated. Perhaps not stressed enough is the potential danger to the patient who receives upper cervical manipulative systems that violate the proposed mechanical laws discussed in this article.

The neurological and biomechanical rationale of the C-1 subluxation is mentioned, and the need for every chiropractor (and other health practitioners) to precisely and accurately restore the misalignments of the C-1 subluxation complex to normal. Every patient with a distorted pelvis and unbalanced spine possesses a C-1 subluxation, and the correction of these structures cannot be accomplished until the C-1 subluxation is normalized.

The concept of adjustic force and its control discussed in this article differs greatly from adjustic force concepts now taught and practiced in the colleges. Other concepts, i.e., motion, reflexes, base of support, center of gravity, parallel forces, follow-through, and feedback are sufficiently discussed to help the practitioner become a more efficient adjuster.

While this paper does not include a full mechanical analysis, it is hoped

this discussion will arouse some interest in proper adjusting. The value of the essential nature of chiropractic—the subluxation and its correction (adjustment)—depends upon a continuing study of the adjustic motor skill, and the development of improved methods of adjusting. Such a study and analysis, aside from improving the performance of the adjuster, more highly motivates him. It also provides added protection to the patient.

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- ¹³*Ibid.*, p. 259.
- ¹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 161.
- ¹⁵*Ibid.*, p. 209.
- ¹⁶*Ibid.*, p. 257.

A CRITIQUE OF A CRITIQUE OF VECTORED ADJUSTING

Continued

force is delivered properly, the transverse process of the atlas will transmit this energy to the articulating surfaces of the axis along a pathway determined by the shape and size of the cervical joint facets. If the force is applied improperly the atlas will resist moving or the atlas will be driven to an out of pattern subluxation.

Frequently it is necessary to deliver both a linear and angular motion in the adjustment at the same time. The combination of directing a linear force with an angular force (torque) is required when the axis spinous has misaligned different from the axis body and the atlas. Those energy systems which only use a linear force in the adjustment preclude an important element in the successful reduction of the subluxation to the vertical axis. It is impossible to return an axis spinous that has moved outside the plane of the atlas and axis. (See Figure 2).

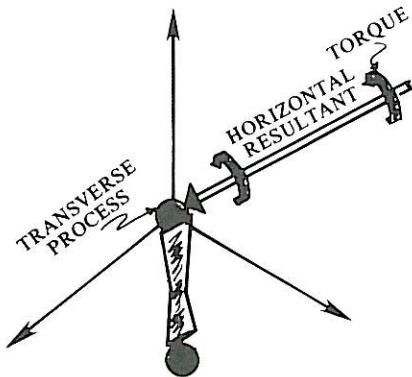


FIGURE 2

A rectilinear force with an angular torque.

Another important advantage that a skilled manual adjuster has is that by directly contacting the atlas the adjuster receives immediate proprioceptive feedback as to whether the vertebra moved or whether the adjustment was complete. If the vertebrae are moving in the desired direction, the adjuster should feel confident that a proper vector is being given. If the vertebrae are not moving the adjuster should then examine all the processes in the adjustment that might be in error and correct the possible errors. With an energy system that does not have this

immediate feedback, the probability of compounding an error would seem likely.

Head Position and Rotation

It does not follow that "a slight rotation of the head when placed on the headpiece in the amount of $1/16$ " or an $1/8$ " will cause anterior rotations to be driven more anterior and posterior rotations to be driven more posterior." This is true both for mathematical and anatomical reasons.

Using Molthen's example of the average skull of 22", the radius of the skull would be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and a $1/16$ " deviation of head placement would equal 1 degree of error. This example is only correct if the skull rotates around a radius of $3\frac{1}{2}$ " or the center of mass. The skull actually rotates around a point where the skull rests on the head piece. This increases the radius to approximately 7". One degree of deviation would then be equal to $1/8$ ". This amount of error would be more apparent to the adjuster. The adjuster then would either reposition the skull or accommodate the small error in measuring from the transverse tip which will be discussed later in the paper.

For a vertebrae to be subluxated the vertebra must be misaligned outside its normal range of motion. Anatomically, if the skull is placed incorrectly on the headpiece it is not valid to assume that an artificial increment of rotation will be added to the existing rotation. The mere incorrect placement of the skull on the headpiece will not extend the atlanto-occipital joint outside the normal range of motion. According to White and Panjabi (1978) the normal range of motion for the atlanto-occipital joint is 0 degrees which indicates that the joint rotates as a unit. If this is true than any accommodation to rotation must be realized further down the cervical unit. This is verified by White and Panjabi (1978) and Caillet (1974), who report the normal range of motion is +47 degrees. It would seem then that to increase rotation by placing the skull on the headpiece, the head would have to be placed in a manner well outside the range of motion that Molthen suggests.

To verify that rotatory misalignment

could not occur outside the normal range of motion, a series of measurements were taken on a number of patients using the vertex x-ray procedure (Dickholtz, 1980). In the vertex position, the patient's head was turned in increments from the zero plane either left or right, $1/4$ ", $1/2$ " or 1". The results indicated that, in fact, the turning of the head through these three increments did not increase the rotation. Beyond 1" distortion in the x-ray film prevented accurate analysis of the film. With a 1" error an experienced adjuster should be able to detect error in the placement of the skull and take appropriate measures to correct the error.

Even without repositioning the head, slight head rotations can be accounted for when the adjuster measures for the rotation and height vector at the beginning of the adjustment. For example, if the rotation vector is 4 degrees anterior and the height vector is 4 degrees, and the transverse tip is slightly anterior because of improper head placement, the adjuster will measure anterior from the tip in the same plane as the slightly tipped transverse process. The height vector will be measured in the same plane 90 degrees distal to the rotation line. The horizontal resultant would then be directed back to the transverse tip in the same plane. (See Figure 3.)

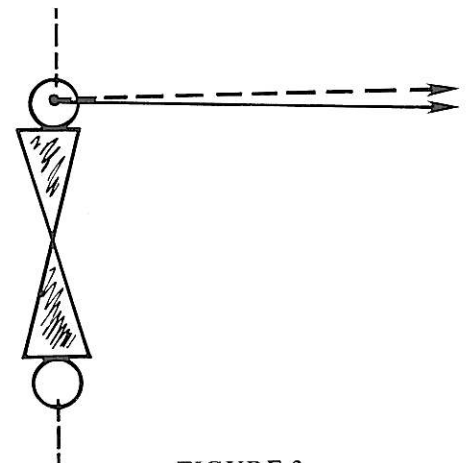


FIGURE 3

Measuring from the transverse tip that is slightly anterior.

A further clue to the adjuster that an error may exist with head placement is if the transverse tip from which the vectors were measured did not turn with the slightly rotated skull. If this is

true, it is possible that a misalignment has occurred between atlas and the condyles.

Head Position and Laterality

Molthen also indicates that an error can occur with laterality if the head is improperly placed on the headpiece. Again we feel this assumption is invalid. White and Panjabi (1978) report that the atlanto-occipital joint will tolerate 8 degrees of normal motion and the atlanto-axial joint will tolerate 0 degrees. The bulk of the lateral range of motion is exhibited in the lower cervical units. The degree of tolerance in the cervical unit is well beyond the limits suggested by Molthen.

To verify that laterality does not occur outside of the normal range of motion, a series of measurements were taken on a number of patients using the nasium x-ray procedure. The patient's head was tilted either right or left in increments of $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and 1" from the vertical plane. The results showed that the relationship between the condyles and the atlas did not change when the head was tilted either right or left up to 1". An analysis of the x-rays did show that two elements of the height vector changed: the lower angle and the atlas plane line. Therefore care must be taken in head placement with these two elements in mind. The original height vector can be affected by improper head placement. Improper head placement also can change the position of the axis spinous and this would effect the torquing procedure in the adjustment. This of course, would not be a problem for

adjusters who do not torque the adjustment vector.

Conclusion

It is apparent that we do not agree with Molthen's conclusions that "... no matter how much calculation is involved in determining the ultimate vector, it is physically impossible to control the placement of the head on the headpiece." This conclusion would render any type of upper cervical adjusting as ineffective and an exercise in false assumptions.

Our experience has not followed Molthen's prediction. About 95% of our patients who are adjusted (using the triceps pull) show almost a 100% reduction of rotation, laterality and torque, and a return to the vertical axis (Gregory, 1981). It is also true that every head that is placed on the headpiece is not as precisely placed as we would like, yet the reductions do occur. The results would support our findings that the cervical unit is tolerant to moderate errors in head placement with regard to rotation and laterality. The adjuster should position the head so that the sagittal plane of the skull squares with the headpiece support and the Frankfort Line of the skull (a line from the superior aspect of the auditory meatus and the inferior orbit of the eye). A further step in reducing head placement error is to use a headpiece which locks the head with three contacts. This type of headpiece is currently being used by NUCCA adjusters.

The triceps energy system requires

considerable skill in delivering a rectilinear vector. If the adjuster has not acquired this precise motor skill, the possibility of a curvilinear vector will be rendered as valid. But the skill can be acquired and probably has more to do with error in the reduction of subluxations than head placement. Errors that can occur because of improper head placement are changes in atlas plane line, lower angle and the axis spinous.

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DONATIONS TO NUCCA

The National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Research Association, Inc. (NUCCRA) expresses its heartfelt thanks to the donators (listed below) who have recently and generously contributed to chiropractic research, and financially supported the release of educational data to the profession. These contributions benefit the patient, the doctor, and the profession.

Dr. Albert Berti	Vancouver, B.C., Canada	Mr. D. A. Miller	Michigan
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Report on Research and Training

Amerigo Biollo, D.C.
Clinic Director

Robert T. Anderson, Ph.D.
Research Director

Life Chiropractic College—West

Five quarters have passed since the chiropractic technique course based upon the Grostic-Gregory approach was first introduced into the College curriculum. Five classes of advanced students, all previously trained in toggle, diversified, and Gonstead, have continued on to complete the course.

Numbering fifty-five students in all, with as many again to follow in the next two quarters, student opinion agrees vociferously on one point. The course is extremely difficult. Stern instructors and technical difficulties make every technique course difficult. Yet new students are repeatedly dismayed to find that the most demanding class of all still lies ahead of them.

There is no easing up as the semester unfolds. They early discover the many pitfalls that betray the neophyte in x-ray set-ups and analysis. Great patience and endless practice is required. Yet, when they proceed on to table set-ups and patient placement, they find that these are far more complex than most anticipated. When the final moment comes for assuming the adjustive position, it seems to many that they still have a semester—or a year—of work if they are to succeed.

The intellectual demands together with requirements of mental and physical discipline make the course stressful to students and instructor alike. It is fair to ask, is it worth it?

Student responses vary from love to hate. Not all can attain the established standards of excellence, although most do quite well. From informal surveys it seems fair to say that nearly all agree that they learn skills that will be valuable to them even though most, probably, will ultimately choose to practice some other technique. Concepts of biomechanics and techniques of x-ray analysis are especially thought of as well worth the effort in this sense.

It may be that too much is demanded of these students. Ten hours a week for twelve weeks would seem a lot, yet the skills and information to be communicated are enormous. We are examining our options in this regard. It may be that the material would be better assimilated if it were broken up into two quarters of five hours per week. The slower pacing would probably drop stress levels and permit better learning. It would also be beneficial to add an advanced course to be limited in enrollment to those committed to the technique. That, however, remains for future consideration.

Having the NUCCA seminar on campus last February introduced a big surge of enthusiasm. Seeing and meeting people with names familiar to them from **The Upper Cervical Monograph** and other journals was inspirational to many. It also encouraged students to discover that even the most famous of these were quite friendly and approachable and willing to coach and consult on an impromptu basis as well as officially on the program. Equally motivating was the discovery that students from other colleges and field doctors from all over the country had assembled for six days of intensive study of a subject that they were able to pursue for 120 hours **plus** the hours of the NUCCA seminar.

Some at this point also realized how fortunate they are to have an anameter at their disposal. The net result was fresh enthusiasm and renewed vigor in the classroom.

The College is still young and growing. The numbers involved are still small. Only thirty students thus far have advanced to internships in the clinic. (Another 24 will nearly double that number in mid-July.) Of these thirty interns, ten have utilized the upper cervical technique as outlined by NUCCA. We think that ten out of thirty is a remarkable percentage of students to persevere in what most would agree requires an unusual degree of commitment to excellence, for the technique is taught with the understanding that it cannot be practiced in a partial or imprecise manner.

The size of the program, both in the classroom and the clinic, creates a mild

logistics problem. Any field doctors who are able to donate tables and instruments would make a valuable contribution at this time as we anticipate a precipitous rise in enrollments. Earlier generous help got us started, but growth requires added provisions.

Research is intimately built into the training program. In the last report to NUCCA members, the College could report that Dr. George E. Anderson had presided over the dedication of the new clinic. The timing was scheduled to coincide with the NUCCA seminar, for it was meant to recognize the dedication and achievements of Dr. Ralph R. Gregory.

Now we can report that the anameter, so generously made available by NUCCA and the Benesh Tool and Manufacturing Company, is installed in the clinic. It stands regally in the center of its own room. Interns from all classes have been instructed in its use. They routinely collect pre- and post-adjustment data when caring for patients.

Our major research effort is directed towards the establishment of a large data bank. After every full spine x-ray, each patient is put through a supine leg check and an anameter evaluation. As concerns the clinical assessment of a functional short leg, this permits a three-way check on correlations between physical examination, x-ray measurements, and anameter readings. These, by the way, promise to show a high level of consistency, but much more work must be done before final results can be published.

Anameter data is added to case files to which a large amount of other systematically collected information is also added. These include complete case histories, orthopedic and neurological examinations, and other instrumental mensuration. Ultimately, a wide variety of statistical studies will be carried out based upon these records of a large number of patients.

In the next issue, another member of the clinic staff reports upon research deriving from our program at Life-West. Dr. Martinet utilized the resources of the osteological laboratory

at the University of California, Berkeley, to follow up the provocative work of Dr. Daniel Seemann. (See Daniel Seemann, "The Center of Gravity of the Skull," **The Upper Cervical Monograph**, Vol. 2, No. 9, July, 1980.)

Last fall, a pretest of our reliability study of the anameter was carried out with the help of student assistants. We plan to follow through with a full-scale test in the fall.

Thus, as we look at the last year, and at the next, we pause to assess our position. The work has been hard, and the obstacles difficult. But we have benefited from wise counsel and generous support on the part of the profession. We have made progress. We would like to make far more. The most important ingredient for success is there, however: we have been given the opportunity.

New NUCCA Policy

For several years, NUCCA has sent the MONOGRAPH and other materials, including booklets and pamphlets, to non-member doctors and students enrolled in chiropractic colleges throughout the world without charge. Up to now, NUCCA wrote off the publishing, handling, and postage costs to public relations. Because of the increased costs, NUCCA can no longer offer this free service to non-members.

A yearly subscription of ten (\$10.00) dollars, therefore, to non-members will be charged for the MONOGRAPH. Booklets and pamphlets of a technical nature will be priced according to cost of printing and handling. NUCCA

members will, of course, receive the MONOGRAPH and other publications, without charge as part of their membership privileges.

Many requests are received from doctors and students for past issues of the MONOGRAPH, because of the NUCCA research and academic articles. There are 16 past issues which can be obtained from NUCCA for a cost of ten (\$10.00) dollars by ordering them from the NUCCA Editor, 217 West Second Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161. Single issues of the MONOGRAPH can be obtained for one (\$1.00) dollar.

This offer holds as long as past issues are available.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL NUCCA CONVENTION

From May 2nd through May 5th, 1981, the National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association, Inc. (NUCCA) held its Fifteenth Annual Convention and Educational Conference at Monroe, Michigan's Howard Johnson Motor Lodge. The theme of the conference was *Biomechanics of the Subluxation*. Dr. Daniel C. Seemann of the University of Toledo supervised the conference.

The conference was ably chaired by Dr. Harry S. Alexander, Kettering, Ohio.

Doctors of chiropractic and chiropractic students filled the HJ conference room to capacity. Present were attendants from the United States, Canada, and one from Australia, Dr. Bernard Lyle, whose presence marked his second consecutive year.

As is the usual practice in NUCCA educational seminars, doctors and students participated in practical work, becoming involved by "doing": learning the advanced techniques in film analysis and adjusting technique that have been the focus of the past year's NUCCA research program.

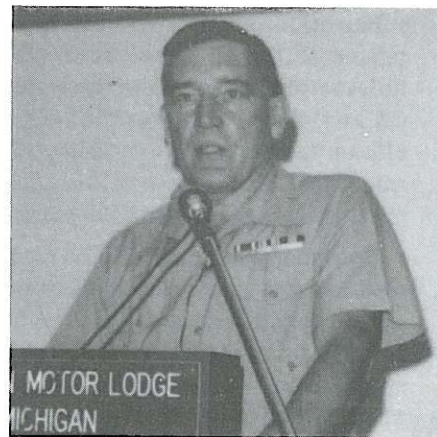
Daniel C. Seemann, Ph.D. discussed the latest research work of NUCCA. Coker J. Denton, Ed.D. of North-

eastern Oklahoma State University lectured on "Principles of Grant Writing". Chiropractic subjects were presented by Drs. J. A. Hernandez, T. A. Denton, Lloyd Pond, M. Dickholtz, Sr., and R. R. Gregory.

At the NUCCA Annual Business Meeting, Drs. M. Dickholtz, Sr., A. Berti, Lloyd Pond, and R. R. Gregory were elected to the NUCCA Directive Board.

A banquet was held at the Monroe French-Italian Inn on Monday night, May 4th. The NUCCA guests were entertained by Robert B. Wells who presented his award-winning multi-

media program "*Bless This House*". This excellent program was enthusiastically received.



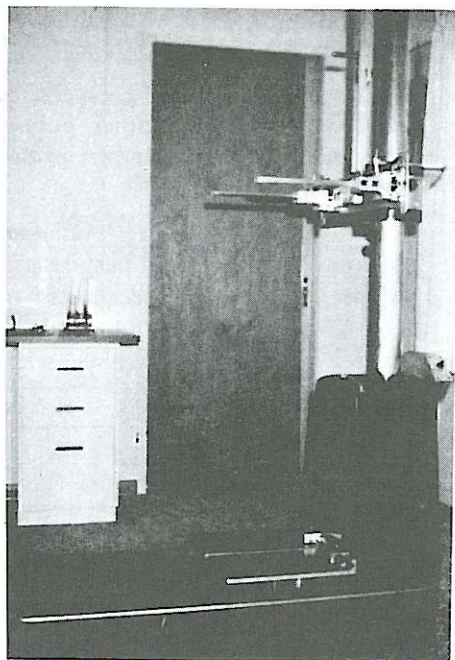
Dr. Daniel C. Seemann



Dr. Harry S. Alexander



Dr. Coker J. Denton



SIDE VIEW

ANNOUNCEMENT

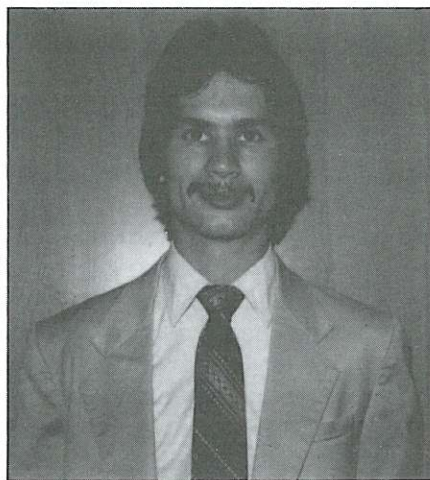
After eight years of clinical testing, the Anatomometer has definitely established that the subluxated patient exhibits spinal column and associated bodily distortions—effects of the C1 subluxation. These effects can be correlated to the C1 subluxation. With the Anatomometer and from these physical and objective subluxation-caused effects, the doctor can measure accurately the effectiveness of his adjustment and the progress of his patient.

The Anatomometer can also be used to distinguish scoliosis from subluxation-caused spinal distortions and is effective in examining school children for spinal distortion problems. It is valuable, furthermore, in screening prospective employees for industry, spotting biomechanical problems that could lead to future costly settlements and time losses.

Because of the economic climate the country is now experiencing, and to help newly established doctors who have expressed a desire to purchase the Anatomometer, Mr. Peter Benesh of the Benesh Tool & Manufacturing Company, exclusive manufacturers of the Anatomometer, has devised an attractive purchase plan with the approval of the NUCCRA corporation. Details of the plan may be obtained by contacting Peter Benesh, P. O. Box 906, Monroe,

Michigan 48161, or by telephoning 313-242-4242.

Present owners of the Anatomometer include Drs. Albert Berti, 200-3825 Sunset St., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1T4, Canada; Lloyd Pond, 4540 E. Main St., Farmington, N.M.; T. Elliott, 1219 S. Peoria, Tulsa, Oklahoma; R. Brooks, 4527-E 31st St., Tulsa, Oklahoma; M. Dickholtz, 3420 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, Illinois; and W. Andrew Shepherd, 700 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Keith E. Denton announces his association in practice with Dr. Ralph R. Gregory, 217 West Second Street, Monroe, Michigan.

Dr. Denton graduated from the Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa, in 1981. A native of Oklahoma, he received his undergraduate education at Northeastern Oklahoma State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

In addition to attending the educational conferences and seminars of the National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association, Inc. (NUCCA), Dr. Denton interned with Dr. Robert T. Brooks of Tulsa, Oklahoma during 1976-77. He also attended NUCCA study classes under the direction of Dr. Thomas R. Elliott, Sr. also of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

A diplomat of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Dr. Denton is licensed in the State of Michigan. He and his wife, Edna, plan to make the Monroe area their permanent home.

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