Epileptic patients improve with chiropractic care

Two studies highlight the positive response that patients suffering from epileptic seizures experienced after beginning chiropractic care.

The April, 1998 issue of the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* reports on the case of a 21 year old female who had a history of grand mal and petit mal seizures occurring every three hours since childhood. A program of chiropractic care was begun and a follow-up one and a half years later revealed that her low back pain had cleared up and she was going as long as two months between seizures.

According to the authors, "data suggests that epilepsies are common, with an incidence between 40 and 200 per 100,000 with an overall prevalence between 0.5-1.0% of the general population. When one considers the potential side effects of antiepileptic drugs, research into the effects of chiropractic care for patients with epilepsy should be initiated."

The January, 1996 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics* studied a five year-old boy who was having 4-6 petit mal seizures every hour. By the third visit, the mother reported that the seizures had decreased to 2-3 every two hours.

After two months of his chiropractic care program, he was only experiencing one seizure per day and it only lasted 2-4 seconds.

By way of commentary, chiropractic care is not a cure for epilepsy or any other condition. Chiropractic care does allow your body to function the best it can and as a result it is in a better position to heal itself.

Fetal malformations linked to anti-epilepsy drugs

A study in the February 25, 2003 issue of Neurology reports that the children of women who took anti-epileptic drugs during pregnancy have a higher incidence of malformations.

The study followed 970 pregnant women with epilepsy. 740 out of 979 children born to the women were exposed to anti-epileptic drugs during the first trimester (the time when fetal formation and development occurs).

Major malformations were detected in 28 children (3.8%) who were exposed to the drugs. Only 2 children (0.8%) who were not exposed to the drugs had problems.

In an obvious understatement, the authors say, “New [anti-epileptic drugs]…should be thoroughly investigated with regard to their [malformation causing] potential.”