



CADTH Reference List

Chiropractic Functional Neurology Therapies for Neurological and Psychiatric Conditions

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Key Messages

- We did not find any studies about the clinical effectiveness of chiropractic functional neurology therapies for the treatment of neurological or psychiatric conditions.
- We identified other references on this topic that may be of interest; these are listed in the appendix.

Research Question

What is the clinical effectiveness of chiropractic functional neurology therapies for the treatment of neurological or psychiatric conditions?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

An information specialist conducted a literature search on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Scopus, the Index to Chiropractic Literature (ICL), the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the International HTA Database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search approach was customized to retrieve a limited set of results, balancing comprehensiveness with relevancy. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. Search concepts were developed based on the elements of the research questions and selection criteria. The main search concept was functional neurology. The search was completed on April 18, 2023, and limited to English-language documents published since January 1, 2018. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria and Summary Methods

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in [Table 1](#). Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. The Overall Summary of Findings was based on information available in the abstracts of selected publications.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Population	Adults with neurological or psychiatric conditions (e.g., concussions and post-concussion syndrome, headaches and migraines, neuropathy, depression)
Intervention	Chiropractic functional neurology therapies as an adjunct to usual care
Comparator	Usual care alone (e.g., pharmacotherapy, physical therapy)
Outcomes	Clinical benefits (e.g., pain, function, psychological symptoms, quality of life, patient satisfaction) and harms (e.g., adverse events)

Criteria	Description
Study designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, nonrandomized studies

Results

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, or nonrandomized studies were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of chiropractic functional neurology therapies for the treatment of neurological or psychiatric conditions.

References of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of chiropractic functional neurology therapies for the treatment of neurological or psychiatric conditions; therefore, no summary can be provided.



References

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Systematic Reviews

Alternative Intervention- Spinal Manipulation

Meyer AL, Amorim MA, Schubert M, Schweinhardt P, Leboeuf-Yde C. Unravelling functional neurology: does spinal manipulation have an effect on the brain? - a systematic literature review. *Chiropr Man Therap.* 2019; 27:60. [PubMed](#)

Review Articles

Functional Neurology as Treatment for Post-Traumatic Brain Injury. Vancouver (BC): WorkSafeBC. 2022. <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-care-providers/guides/functional-neurology-treatment-post-traumatic-brain-injury?lang=en> Accessed 2023 April 27.

Note: No abstract available.

Demortier M, Leboeuf-Yde C. Unravelling Functional Neurology: an overview of all published documents by FR Carrick, including a critical review of research articles on its effect or benefit. *Chiropr Man Therap.* 2020; 28(1):9. [PubMed](#)

Meyer AL, Leboeuf-Yde C. Unravelling functional neurology: a critical review of clinical research articles on the effect or benefit of the functional neurology approach. *Chiropr Man Therap.* 2018; 26:30. [PubMed](#)

Additional References

Case Series and Reports

Shaw T, Soto-Garcia M. Chiropractic management of toe-walking in an eight-year-old male diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder utilizing a functional approach: A case study. *J Bodywork Mov Ther.* 2021; 26:538-541. [PubMed](#)

Bernstein C, Wayne PM, Rist PM, Osypiuk K, Hernandez A, Kowalski M. Integrating Chiropractic Care Into the Treatment of Migraine Headaches in a Tertiary Care Hospital: A Case Series. *Glob Adv Health Med.* 2019; 8:2164956119835778. [PubMed](#)