

# Spinal manipulation therapy

Spinal [manipulation therapy](#) (SMT) is commonly used as an effective therapeutic modality for a range of cervical symptoms. However, in rare cases, cervical manipulation may be associated with [complications](#). In a review Salame et al. from the Department of Neurosurgery, [Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Israel](#), present a series of cases with [cervical spine injury](#) and [myelopathy](#) following therapeutic manipulation of the [neck](#), and examine their clinical course and neurological outcome. They conducted a search for patients who developed neurological symptoms due to [cervical spinal cord injury](#) following neck SMT in the [database](#) of a spinal unit in a tertiary hospital between the years 2008 and 2018. Patients were assessed for the clinical course and deterioration, type of manipulation used and subsequent management. A total of four patients were identified, two men and two women, aged 32-66 years. In three patients neurological deterioration appeared after chiropractic adjustment and in one patient after tuina therapy. Three patients were managed with [anterior cervical discectomy and fusion](#) while one patient declined surgical treatment. Assessment for subjective and objective evidence of [cervical myelopathy](#) should be performed prior to cervical manipulation, and suspected myelopathic patients should be sent for further workup by a specialist familiar with cervical myelopathy (such as a neurologist, a neurosurgeon or orthopedic surgeon who specializes in spinal surgery). Nevertheless, manipulation therapy remains an important and generally safe treatment modality for a variety of cervical complaints. This review does not intend to discard the role of SMT as a significant part in the management of patients with neck related symptoms, rather it is meant to draw attention to the need for careful clinical and imaging investigation before treatment <sup>1)</sup>.

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see [Cervical spinal traumatic epidural hematoma after spinal manipulation therapy](#)

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Salame K, Grundshtein A, Regev G, Khashan M, Lador R, Lidar Z. Acute Presentation of Cervical Myelopathy Following Manipulation Therapy. *Isr Med Assoc J*. 2019 Aug;21(8):542-545. Review. PubMed PMID: 31474017.

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