

CONTRIBUTION OF CHIROPRACTIC THERAPY TO RESOLVING SUBOPTIMAL BREASTFEEDING: A CASE SERIES OF 114 INFANTS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The purpose of this study was to describe the circumstances, clinical features, role, and results of chiropractic management of infants who were referred to a chiropractic clinic for failure to adequately feed at the breast.

Methods: Clinical case series of 114 infant cases of hospital-diagnosed or lactation consultant diagnosed feeding problems that were treated with chiropractic therapy in addition to routine care and followed to short-term result.

Results: The most common age of referral was 1 week (mean, 3 weeks; range, 2 days-12 weeks), and the most common physical findings were cervical posterior joint dysfunction (89%), temporomandibular joint imbalance (36%), and inadequate suck reflex (34%). Treatment was chiropractic therapy in addition to any support given elsewhere. All children showed some improvement with 78% (N = 89) being able to exclusively breast feed after 2 to 5 treatments within a 2-week time period.

Conclusion: Cooperative multidisciplinary care to support breastfeeding was demonstrated in this population.

Chiropractic treatment may be a useful adjunct to routine care given by other professionals in cases of diagnosed breastfeeding problems with a biomechanical component.

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Key Indexing Terms: Pediatrics; Infant; Breast Feeding; Manual Therapy; Chiropractic