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Medical Profiles



Dr. Colucci with some of her pediatric chiropractic patients.

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Chiropractic Care for Children

Chiropractic care plays an important role in family healthcare, which includes not only the parents but also the children. In fact, according to Margaret Colucci, chiropractic physician, many pregnant women have found that chiropractic care has been instrumental in providing a greater health potential for both mother and baby.

"During the various stages of pregnancy," says Dr. Colucci, "there are structural changes in the mother." The mother's spine and pelvis undergo many changes and adaptations to compensate for the growing baby. As the center of gravity changes for the mother, so does the stress on the spine. It is recommended that mothers-to-be seek chiropractic care throughout the pregnancy to balance the spine and pelvis, thereby enhancing nervous system function.

As for the newborn child, Dr. Colucci says, "The baby should be adjusted soon after the birth. The birth process is strenuous for the baby,

especially for the upper neck and spine." The biomechanics of birth, whether natural or C-section, can cause the upper two vertebrae to become misaligned or subluxated.

"This misalignment," says Dr. Colucci, "can lower the immune system, causing a number of health problems for the child such as colic, ear infections, allergic reaction and poor appetite. These problems, as well as others, can be traced to nervous system dysfunction caused by a vertebral subluxation or malfunctioned spine."

When Dr. Colucci's daughter was born, her spine was checked and adjusted shortly after her birth. "My daughter is now 22 months old," she says, "and she rarely is sick. I work closely with her pediatrician, as well as other pediatricians in town, working on other children. It's not about holistic care versus medical care. It's working together as a team, providing optimal healthcare for children."

Many spinal problems seen in adults begin in childhood. "It's important to check the spine as the baby grows," says Dr. Colucci. "As the spine goes through the developmental stages of head support, crawling, first steps and growth spurts, the structure can become imbalanced, which could cause scoliosis and/or a vertebral subluxation, thus causing a weakened immune system response." Chiropractic adjusting techniques are modified to fit a child's size, weight and unique spinal problem. First the chiropractor will conduct a careful and thorough examination of the child's spine. The actual adjustment is done with a very light fingertip technique.

A common misconception that many people believe is that chiropractic care is related only to back pain with care consisting of a beginning and an end. This is not always the case. "Chiropractic treatment is an ongoing process that is practiced ideally from birth through adulthood," says Dr. Colucci. "When the body's structure is not balanced, the nervous system is affected and its function is not optimal, thus creating a number of health problems that can be avoided by preventative chiropractic care."

Dr. Colucci is a prominent, board certified Las Vegas chiropractic physician and owner of Red Rock Chiropractic, with over 14 years of clinical experience and is a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic. She was appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn in 2002 to serve on the chiropractic physicians board of Nevada.

Dr. Colucci will be sponsoring the 9th annual Kids Day America/International to benefit Make-A-Wish foundation on September 20, 2003, noon to 3 p.m. at Red Rock Chiropractic. The program features complimentary spinal screenings for children as well as adults, backpack and fire safety instruction, child ID cards with photograph, refreshments, balloons, and many more fun surprise activities for children of all ages.

