

Spinal Misalignment

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The human spine consists of 24 movable bones called vertebrae. The vertebrae are connected and cushioned by intervertebral discs made of a special type of cartilage. Intervertebral discs provide spacing for the spinal nerves to exit between openings in the posterior joints of the spine. These openings are called intervertebral foramina. The discs along with the posterior joints of each vertebrae are responsible for the flexibility of the spine. Spinal misalignments called subluxations can cause changes in the function of the disc and posterior joints. These changes can alter the shape of the disc and the intervertebral foramina where the delicate spinal nerves exit. The result is irritation to the spinal nerves that send and receive information between the body and the brain. The areas listed below are directly or indirectly controlled by the spinal nerves and may cause malfunction represented by the following effects.

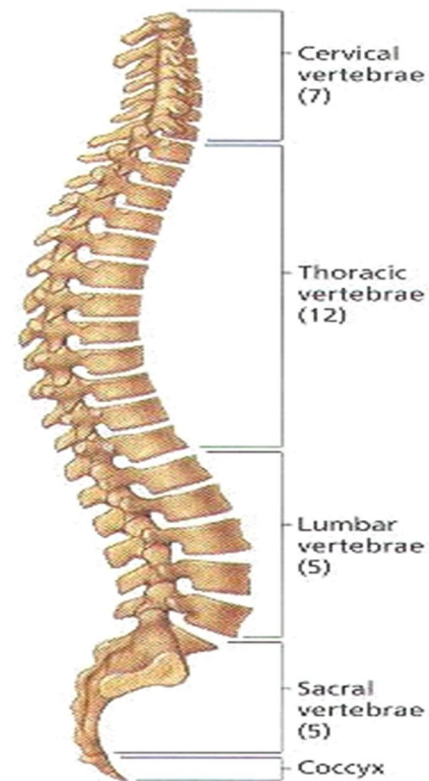
The Cervical spine consists of 7 vertebrae with spinal nerves traveling to the face, ears, eyes, tongue, sinuses, eustachian tubes, vocal cords, pharynx, pituitary gland, thyroid gland, neck muscles and shoulders. Possible effects of malfunction are: headaches, nervousness, insomnia, colds, fatigue, allergies, sinus trouble, runny nose, earache, pain around eyes, acne, pimples, throat conditions, stiff neck and upper arm pain.

The Thoracic spine consists of 12 vertebrae with spinal nerves traveling to many of the internal organs, the arms, wrist and hands. Possible effects of malfunction are: asthma, cough, pain in lower arms and hands, allergies & heartburn. Conditions affecting the following organs: heart, lungs, gall bladder, liver, kidneys, pancreas, adrenals, small intestines and lymph system.

The Lumbar spine consists of 5 vertebrae with spinal nerves traveling to the abdomen, large intestines, appendix, sex organs, uterus, bladder, prostate gland, legs, ankles, feet and muscles of the lower back. Possible effects of malfunction are: constipation, colitis, diarrhea, cramps, painful or irregular periods, bed wetting, painful knees, backache, leg cramps, weakness in the legs.

The sacrum is the base where the spine rests, and is part of the pelvis. Pelvic misalignment can cause changes along the entire spine.

Connected to the sacrum is the coccyx, commonly called the tailbone. The spinal cord is covered by a thin membrane that attaches to the coccyx. This membrane extends the entire length of the spinal cord and continues to cover the brain. Changes that occur during pregnancy or falls can alter the position of the coccyx, possibly changing the tension on this membrane. Ask your Doctor of Chiropractic about the symptoms listed and many other conditions that could be caused when there are spinal misalignments.



(b) HUMAN SPINE