

**The effect of low force chiropractic adjustments on body surface electromagnetic field.**  
**JCCA 2004; 48(1):29–35.**

**To the Editor:**

I found the article by Zhang, Snyder and Vernor<sup>1</sup> in the March issue interesting. I was wondering if the authors could elaborate on two points:

- a. Why was no between-group comparison reported? This is usually the intent when using a control group. I'm particularly interested in this comparison given the variability in the control group as evidenced by the large standard deviations.
- b. Could the authors comment on the appropriateness of multiple t-tests? My understanding is such analyses are inappropriate and increase the risk of a Type I error (finding a significant difference where none exists)<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Cameron McDermaid, DC, FCCS(C)

**References**

1. Zhang J, Snyder BJ, Vernor L. The effect of low force chiropractic adjustments on body surface electromagnetic field. *JCCA* 2004;48(1):29–35.
2. Portnoy LG, Watkins MP. *Foundations of clinical research: Applications to practice*. 1st ed. Norwalk, CT: Appleton & Lange; 1993:p 370.

**To the Editor in reply:**

I have the following response to Dr. McDermaid's questions about the EMF study.

1. Why was no between-group comparison reported?

Between group comparison is often used in ANOVA analysis when a study involves more than two groups. However, our study has only two groups. Therefore t test was used instead of ANOVA, though you may find the results are the same.

2. Why there is a large SD?

This was due to the large variation of EMF reading on each individual measurement.

3. The appropriateness of multiple t-tests?

Only one t test was used between the experimental and control groups for each region. Each region (cervical, lumbar et al) has different body surface EMF reading, therefore, it was not appropriate to combine them into an ANOVA test.

I hope that this provides adequate answers to the questions. Thank you for your interests in the study.

John Zhang, MD, PhD  
Brian J. Snyder, DC

**Orthopaedics and chiropractic – a close relationship.**  
**JCCA 2004; 48(2):113–6.**

**To the Editor:**

It was with great pleasure that I read the Commentary by Dr. Kirkaldy-Willis in the June 2004 issue of the Journal. Being educated in chiropractic in the early 1970's, I was greatly influenced by his work, and the impact of his approach continues to affect me to this day. Beyond that, I had the good fortune to develop a collegial relationship with him that culminated in a unique opportunity in the early 1980's to interview him in Saskatoon for the Journal of the American Chiropractic Association. Prior to that, my association with Dr.'s Ron Gitelman and Adrian Grice had given me a "front-row seat" on the development of the collaborative relationship in Saskatoon of which Dr. K-W, as he was widely known, wrote in his Commentary.

The interview in Saskatoon filled in so many of the missing ingredients in this remarkable man's life. I hope I did him justice in the published interview (which, incidentally, omitted my name as the interviewer!).

My favorite anecdote about K-W occurred at the 1986 American Back Association Conference in San Francisco. K-W was at the height of his acclaim, and he was the moderator of the panel session on which I sat as the presenter of a research paper into the work I had done on the response of endorphins to a cervical manipulation. I was new at the conferencing business, so I thought that

traveling 3000 miles to present my work in 10 minutes was a bit of a chore. After all the presentations in that sessions were over, we sat down on a panel and were instructed by K-W, in no uncertain terms, to keep brief the answers we were to give to the audience's questions. He had organized them into a sequence matching the way we sat on the panel, and I happened to be sitting right next to him.

He started with me, and asked, "Was your study controlled?". I leaned into the microphone and said "Yes". Then I looked over at K-W with a wink.

He went through the rest of the panel and then came to me again. This time he read (and this is the God's truth), "Can chiropractors cure ankylosing spondylitis?" I leaned into the microphone and said "No"; then I turned to K-W and said, "Brief enough for you?"

A man of the unique combination of courage, insight and humility, the like of Dr. William Kirkaldy-Willis, will not come our way too often. God bless you, Bill.

Howard Vernon, DC, PhD, FCCS  
Professor, CMCC

**Commentary**  
**Orthopaedics and chiropractic, a close relationship.**  
**JCCA 2004; 48(2):113-116.**

**To the Editor:**

I was delighted to see the article by Professor Kirkaldy-Willis in the June 04 edition, and to know that he is apparently hale and hearty at age 90.

The situation in Saskatchewan came about due to certain people being in the right place at the right time. The

professor covers most of this in his article. I would like to add a couple of credits for the sake of completeness.

Around 1974, early in my association with the university orthopedic department, there was a chiropractic convention in Saskatoon. Dr. Herb Vear was there and expressed a wish to meet the professor. They seemed to hit it off very well, and I can remember being almost floored when Dr. Vear asked the professor about the possibility of chiropractic graduates doing a rotating residency in his department. The professor agreed without hesitation, and the program was born. Implicit in all of this was the need for a person to run this program. Dr. David Cassidy, at that time, was associated with Dr. Ron Gitelman in Toronto, and Ron suggested that David was the man. This proved to be a very fortunate choice, as David not only ran the program, supervising the clinical practice in his own office as well as attending the hospital rounds and conferences. Along the way, David Cassidy was able to earn a PhD, and has now moved on into a career in medical research.

The university back clinic saw patients from the northern half of Saskatchewan. We needed the help of outlying chiropractors for continuing care. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, following a meeting with the professor and myself, agreed to this arrangement, and, I think, was due to the respect in which the professor was held by all.

Professor Kirkaldy-Willis was steadfast in his loyalty to the chiropractic profession, and was a regular speaker at conferences. It was a huge boost to interprofessional relations, and I am pleased to have been there to see it unfold.

Gordon E. Potter, DC, MD  
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