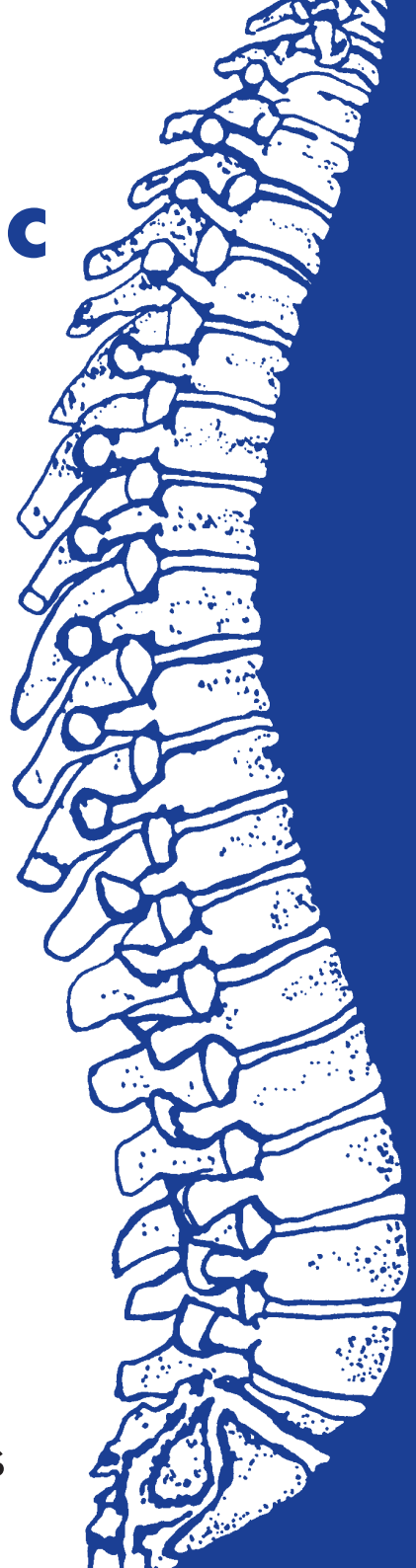


Corrective Chiropractic Exercises



THE HUMAN SPINE



Cervical Spine

7 Vertebrae

Thoracic (Dorsal) Spine

12 Vertebrae

Lumbar Spine

5 Vertebrae

Sacrum

Coccyx

CORRECTIVE CHIROPRACTIC EXERCISES

When to exercise

Exercise during the day for better posture. Take deep breaths to maintain alertness. Exercise in the evenings to help fatigued muscles and restore circulation. Develop a regular exercise period for ten minutes each day at your convenience.

Caution concerning exercise

Too many people have become discouraged with exercising because they did too much on the first day, leaving themselves stiff and sore so that they will not try it again. Fire can be used to heat your home and add comfort to your life and it can also be used to burn down your house and cause injury to you; exercise can also be both beneficial and harmful. So, if you are beginning an exercise programme for the first time, *stop before you get too fatigued*. If you have discontinued exercise for some time, start from the beginning or at least do less than you were doing before you stopped.

If you are stiff from exercising the day before, cut back on the number of exercises. Never unduly force a stiff muscle because you can injure it.

IF ANY PRESCRIBED EXERCISE CAUSES PAIN EITHER DURING OR AFTER ITS PERFORMANCE, DISCONTINUE THAT ACTIVITY AND CONSULT YOUR CHIROPRACTOR. DO ONLY THOSE EXERCISES PRESCRIBED SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU.

Note: Spinal exercises cannot correct postural deficiencies which are congenital in origin. Generally exercises will not correct spinal misalignments (subluxations). When corrective chiropractic adjustments are given to remove or ease the cause of particular health problems these specific exercises will help in maintaining improved health by improving spinal stability.

STRETCHING AND FLEXIBILITY

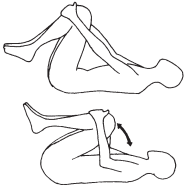
Nature has a way of maintaining good muscle tone and flexibility, and that is by stretching. Watch a cat or dog after they have been resting – the first thing they do is stretch. Stretching is nature's way of maintaining the flexibility of joints, ligaments and muscles. After periods of inactivity, stretch to loosen tight ligaments and muscles and free slight joint restrictions.

When not used, connective tissue shortens and stiffening occurs. Stretching lengthens this tissue and allows it to relax. Stretching stimulates a richer flow of blood to the tissues, relaxing and 'limbering up' the large muscles and ligaments, making the body more flexible.

Bad posture and the ageing process can result in overstrain of muscles and ligaments. As you grow older, muscles become shorter and tighter (especially when not used) and lose tone. Inactivity can cause the same thing. A tightened or contracted muscle or ligament will reduce the ranges of movements in joints.

RECOMMENDED EXERCISES

EXERCISE 1



Knees to chest.

Lie on your back. Bend both knees and put a hand on each. Pull your knees to your chest and hold for approximately 7____seconds. Relax out to arms length. Do 3____repetitions. Repeat 1-2____times per day.

EXERCISE 2

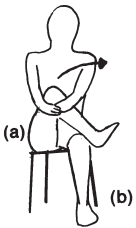


Sacro-Iliac Motion

Lie flat on your back, bend one knee and gently roll it over your straight leg, tucking your toes behind your knee. Use the hand on the straight leg side to hold it there for 7____seconds. Make sure your shoulder remains flat on the floor, and it is only the pelvis that rotates.

Repeat procedure for other side. Do 3____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 ____times per day.

EXERCISE 3



Buttock (Piriformis) Stretch

Sit upright in a straight back chair and place the heel of one leg (a) on the knee of the other leg (b). Grasp the knee of leg (a) with both hands and pull it towards the opposite shoulder (the arm on the side you are pulling your knee towards should do most of the work). This exercise could also be done lying on your back. Hold this stretch for 7____seconds and return to beginning.

Do 3____repetitions. Repeat 1-2____times per day.

EXERCISE 4

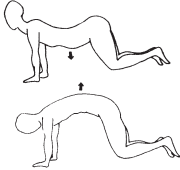


Supine Hamstring Stretch

Lying on back and support thigh behind knee, pull leg towards chest then slowly straighten knee until a stretch is felt in back of thigh. Hold 7_____ seconds.

Do 3_____ repetitions. Repeat 1-2 _____times per day.

EXERCISE 5

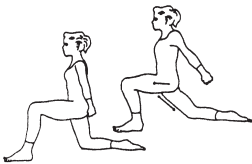


Trunk arching

Kneel on all fours on the floor. Arch your back and drop your head, then slowly drop your abdomen and raise your head. Do 3_____ repetitions.

Repeat 1-2 _____times per day.

EXERCISE 6



Stretching of Hip Flexors (PSOAS) and Anterior Thigh Muscles

Place knee of side to be stretched on floor.

Place foot of other leg in front of you pointing straight ahead with knee bent to approximately 90°.

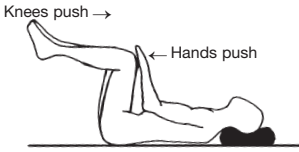
Clasp hands behind you.

Slowly push pelvis forward while gently leaning upper body back.

Hold for 7_____seconds. Do 3_____repetitions.

Repeat 1-2 _____ times per day.

EXERCISE 7



Isometric Abdominal Muscle

(a) Lying on your back, make sure your head is supported by a pillow. Bend your knees to 90° and your hips to 90°. Apply pressure slowly by pushing your hands into your knees without changing your knee position or angle. Hold for 5____seconds, then gently relax. Repeat 10____times.

(b) Oblique Abdominals: same set up as above, except this time put both hands on one knee and apply gentle resistance for 5____seconds. Repeat 10 ____times.

EXERCISE 8



Abdominal Curl

A basic exercise to help the abdominal musculature. Lie on the floor with the knees bent, feet flat on the floor, and always rest your head on a small pillow between repetitions. With your hands crossed on your chest, slowly raise your head and shoulders as one unit, making sure the lower tip of the shoulder blade stays on the ground. Hold briefly and then slowly return to normal position. Repeat 10____times. Do 2-3____sets.

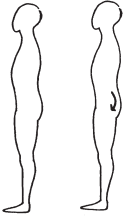
EXERCISE 9



Obliques Side Bridge

- i Lying on your side with legs one in front of the other. Get up onto your elbow (hand stays on ground as well). Slowly lift torso up so that you are supported from your arm and your knees. Hold for 5____seconds. Do 5____repetitions then repeat on other side.
- ii As above except only feet and arm remain on ground.

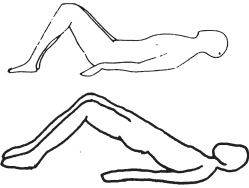
EXERCISE 10



Pelvic Floor

Standing upright contract your buttock muscles (pushing them together) and try to “push” your pelvis forward. At the same time contract the muscles you would use to stop urinating midstream and hold for 5____seconds. Do 10____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 ____times per day.

EXERCISE 11



Lower Back Bridge

- i Lie on floor with your knees bent. Slowly raise your buttocks and back off the floor (shoulders stay flat) until your torso is in line with your knees - hold for 5____ seconds then slowly lower down. Do 10____repetitions.
- ii Same as above, except when you get your back up - slowly extend one leg until it is in line with your chest and thighs.

EXERCISE 12



Erector Spinae Strengthening

Lie on your stomach with your arms outstretched in front of you. Lift your right arm 5cm off the ground and at the same time lift your left leg (keep knee straight) 5cm off the ground. While doing this, now stretch arm and leg lengthways. Hold for 5____seconds then repeat opposite sides. Do 10____repetitions. Repeat 1-2____times per day.

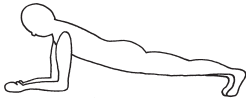
EXERCISE 13



Opposite Arm & Leg Raise on All Fours

Kneel on all fours and stretch out opposite arm and leg straight so they are in line with your body. Hold for 5____seconds then repeat on other side. Do 10____repetitions.

EXERCISE 14



Hover

Lift up so that you are holding your body straight and balancing on your toes and elbows.

Hold for 5_____seconds then drop down.

Repeat 10_____times.

Less difficult version: As above but on elbows and knees.

EXERCISE 15

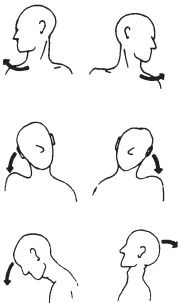


Chest Raise

Lift your upper body up from the ground without using your hands as shown. Hold for 5_____seconds.

Repeat 10_____times.

EXERCISE 16



Neck mobility exercise

This exercise involves simply putting the neck through its full range of movement - can be done sitting or standing - at any time of the day. Bend your head forward as far as possible, bend it back as far as possible, turn it as far left and then right as possible, then put your left ear toward your left shoulder, right ear to right shoulder. Now repeat the sequence. **AT ALL TIMES DO THIS EXERCISE SLOWLY AND GENTLY, ATTEMPTING TO PUT IT TO THE EXTREMES OF MOVEMENT.**

Repeat 1-2_____times per day.

*** Never roll the neck.**

Note:- For extra stretch with the side tilting, while seated, anchor your hand to the chair on the side opposite to head movement.

EXERCISE 17



**ditto
for side
bending**

Neck strengthening exercises

Do sitting **and with gentle resistance only.**

- Hold your forehead in the palm of your hand - push your head against the resistance of your hand for 5_____ seconds - relax. Do 10_____ repetitions. Repeat 1-2_____ times per day.
- Hold the back of your head in the palm of your hands - push your head backwards against the resistance of your hand for 5_____seconds - relax.
- Hold the left side of your head in the palm of your hand - push your head left against the resistance of your hand for 5_____seconds - relax. Repeat for the right.

EXERCISE 18



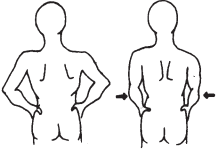
- Lay down on carpeted floor/rug/end of bed with neck extended slightly over a rolled-up towel or contour pillow. Neck should not be flexed forward but extended over towel/pillow.
- Stretch: Relax in this position for 2 minutes (or 4 lots of 30 seconds)
- Strengthen: Squeeze muscle at the back of the neck together as if trying to grasp the towel with your neck and hold for 4 lots of 30 seconds.

EXERCISE 19



Assume above position with right shoulder sitting low. Turn your neck to the left 45 degrees and tilt to the left Using your left arm, reach up and over pulling your neck **gently** to the left and slightly forward. Repeat for opposite side and perform 3_____ sets of 7_____ second holds each side.

EXERCISE 20

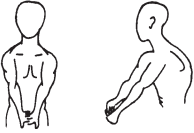


Rhomboid Strengthening

Standing or sitting (especially if you work at a desk), gently squeeze shoulder blades together and down towards buttocks. Hold for 5_____seconds.

Do 5_____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 _____times per day.

EXERCISE 21



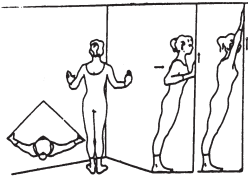
Rhomboids stretch

Standing or sitting, interlace your fingers in front of you. Push your hands towards the floor, arching your upper back at the same time and roll your shoulders forward.

Hold for 5_____seconds. Do 5_____repetitions.

Repeat 1-2 _____times per day.

EXERCISE 22



Stretching of Anterior Shoulder Capsule and Pectoral Muscles.

Stand facing corner between walls, arms bent at waist level and palms on walls. Lean forward into corner and hold for 7_____seconds. Move your hands a little further up the wall after each stretch until arms are fully elevated.

Repeat 1-2_____times per day.

EXERCISE 23



Groin Stretch

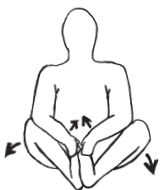
a) Lying on back put one ankle on top of the other knee. Gently apply pressure on bent knee so as to feel a stretch in the groin. Hold stretch for 7_____seconds.

Do 3_____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 _____times per day.

Repeat other side.

b) For a more advanced stretch, sit up, bend both knees so as the soles of both feet face each other. Pull ankles towards buttocks, keep back straight and apply pressure onto the knees with the elbows so as to push the knees away. Hold for 7_____seconds.

Do 3 _____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 _____per day.



EXERCISE 24



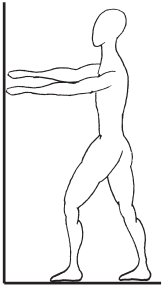
Quadricep Stretch

Stand up and be ready to support the body with one hand. Bend knee and pull ankle up towards buttock as far as possible. Hold for 5 _____seconds.

Do 3_____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 _____times per day.

Repeat other side.

EXERCISE 25



Calf and Achilles Stretch

i) While standing place both hands on a stable wall at level with shoulders while feet are comfortably apart, one foot in front of the other. Keep back leg straight with heel on ground. Bend the front knee. Push into wall and hold for 7 _____seconds.

Do 3_____repetitions. Repeat 1-2 _____ times per day.

ii) Use same position as above but bend the back leg this time still be mindful to keep heel on the ground. Swap feet and stretch other leg. Hold for 7_____seconds. Do 3_____repetitions. Repeat 1-2_____times per day.

