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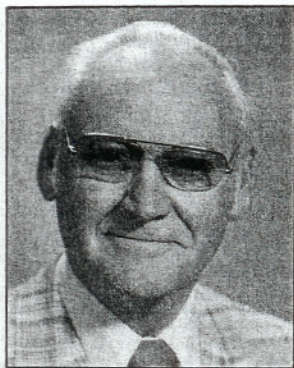
today's chiropractic

READ BY CHIROPRACTORS AROUND THE WORLD

THE MAGAZINE THAT REFLECTS THE LIFE PRINCIPLE IN CHIROPRACTIC

The Cervical Spine

By Roy Sweat, D.C.



The cervical spine must be vertical, or as close to vertical as possible, under the cranium and under the horizontal atlas to support and maintain the cranium and the atlas in the orthogonal position.

The cervical spine is the inferior support and foundation for the cranium and atlas vertebra (Figure 1). It is shaped like a pyramid to support the cranium in a orthogonal position. Its base is always larger than the superior articulation of the axis facets. It usually extends laterally 1/8 inch to 3/16 inch wider on each side. When the surface of the superior axis facets are 2 inches in width, the base of seventh cervical will be 2 1/4 inches or 2 3/8 inches wide. It is never smaller at its inferior base than its superior articulation (Figure 2).

Marking the X-Ray

We draw three lines on the nasium x-ray to locate the orthogonal position of the cranium, the atlas, and the cervical spine. The cervical spine must be vertical, or as close to vertical as possible, under the cranium and under the horizontal atlas to support

and maintain the cranium and the atlas in the orthogonal position (Figure 3).

The center of the superior tip of the spinous process of axis C-2 is the landmark for the superior posterior position of the cervical spinal canal. Spinous processes project posteriorly, usually in the median plane from the place of union of the laminae (Figure 4).

The center of the axis body is the landmark for the superior anterior position of the cervical spinal canal. The center of the body of the seventh cervical vertebrae is used as the landmark for the inferior caudal position of the cervical spinal canal. The superior tip of the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebrae is difficult to locate and its bifurcation is usually

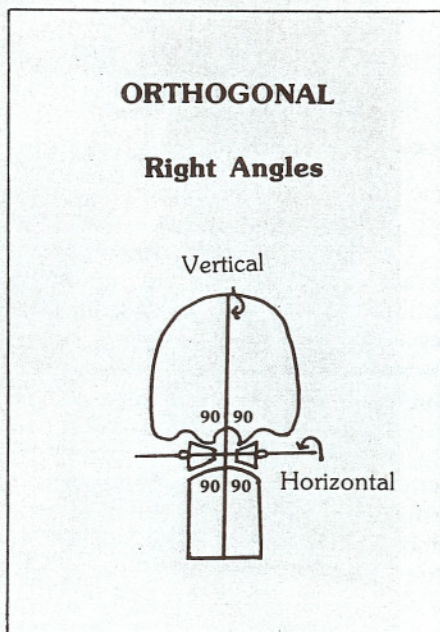


Fig. 3

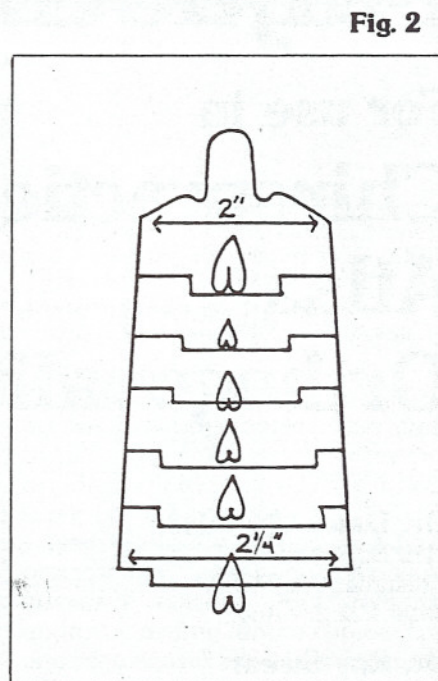
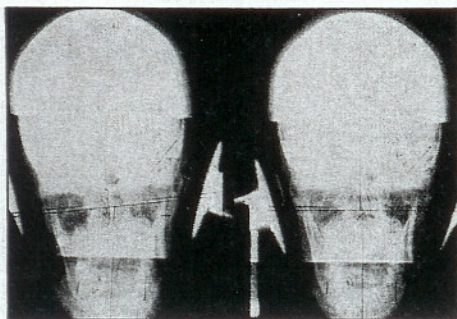


Fig. 2

Fig. 1

quite aberrant. The first, second, and seventh cervical vertebrae are atypical.

Three Rings

The doctor of chiropractic must have a scientific program in the cervical region to have the ring of the foramen magnum, the ring of the atlas, and the ring of the cervical spine to be orthogonal and produce a neurological zero (Figure 5). ■

References

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2. Grostic Seminars, Dr. John F. Grostic, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
3. Case Studies, Sweat Chiropractic Clinic, Atlanta, Georgia.
4. *Gray's Anatomy*, 35th British Edition, Jarrold & Son's Ltd.

Fig. 4

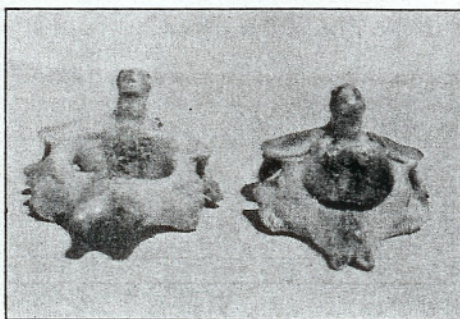


Fig. 5

