Chiropractic cranial treatment of a patient with idiopathic intermittent hearing loss: A case report.

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Purpose and Background
The first chiropractic adjustment given by D. D. Palmer to Harvey Lillard in 1895 was reported to have cured his deafness. A 2006 Di Duro study concluded “that manipulation delivered to the neuromusculoskeletal system may create central plastic changes in the auditory system.”

Case Report
A 50-year-old female referred by her dentist for craniomandibular assessment presented with an idiopathic case of intermittent complete hearing loss lasting for over six-years. The hearing loss would often be complete, bilateral or fluctuate between the right and left ears. Prior to presenting for care at this office she was seen by an ENT allopath for two-years with various unremarkable tests performed over that time (e.g., MRI, etc.) and was unresponsive to interventions.

Methods
Chiropractic cranial evaluation revealed a left temporal internal rotation restriction with evidence of clenching and maxillary exostosis. Craniofacial analysis revealed a right inferior maxilla with maxillo-zygomatic compression. Sacro-occipital technique (SOT) category two (sacroiliac joint hypermobility) was found on the left side with a category one (sacroiliac joint fixation) on the right side.

Results
She was treated 2-times a week for 4-weeks at which time she regained consistent normal hearing in the left ear, her most problematic side. At the 4-week period her left ear went from 0-25% to 75-80%, right ear from 0-25% to 80%, and has been stable for the first time in 2-years. She has been recently referred back to her dentist to change her TMJ appliance from an upper to a lower mandibular appliance to limit incisor contact, improve canine guidance, and equilibrate to the bilateral molar contacts.

Conclusion
This case is interesting because of the ongoing unresponsive nature of her condition. The loss of hearing had a profound affect on her ability to function and the temporal nature of her response to the care rendered suggests a relationship.

References