

Review of: "Changing chiropractic's subluxation rhetoric: Moving on from deniers, vitalists, and unorthodox to realists post realists and absurdists."

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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Review of: [Changing chiropractic's subluxation rhetoric: moving from deniers, vitalists, and unorthodox, to realists, post-realists, and absurdists.](#)

Thank you Dr. Ebrall for raising this important issue and putting in the thought to organize the arguments in workable terminology. The subluxation, subluxation complex, manipulable lesion, adjustive lesion, osteopathic lesion, articular dysfunction, spinal boo-boo, etc., are simply terms of lexicon; however, much time and frustration is wasted arguing about this subject and a coming together and mutual understanding, based on a method that you presented, is very important to put this sometimes-silly disagreement behind us so that we can focus together on further progress in chiropractic.

Those that don't accept the description subluxation still adjust them. They might use another term – PTs might use articular dysfunction, DOs osteopathic lesions, etc., but the thing that any provider uses to describe this adjustive lesion doesn't warrant saying that "it doesn't exist".

At faculty staff meetings this issue has been raised to help standardize and define the terms we teach to help encourage consistency in what is taught to students. Subluxation many years ago had a spiritual and pseudo-religious definition and this is where some of the "deniers" of the term get offended when the term is used. This term was associated with commentary about being the "cause of all disease" and other outdated ideas that no longer define the subluxation or the "subluxationist". If we accept this century's definition and use of the term as a non-religious description of this adjustive/manipulative lesion that particularly chiropractors address, many of the issues raised by those wanting to eliminate the use of the term subluxation no longer apply.

With the term subluxation only being a descriptive term of what we adjust – and nothing more – why use the chiropractic term? The subluxation is the mainstay of chiropractic. Adjusting these manipulatable lesions is perhaps the most important focus within most chiropractic practices. It's what we offer patients uniquely and with skill, while other valuable services that we provide such as exercise, nutritional advice, etc., can be expertly provided by other professions.

According to the Rand Corporation, DCs still do most of the spinal adjustments and have the most training, interest, and expertise with spinal anomalies that respond well to spinal adjustments. These are the reasons that we chiropractors should use the chiropractic lexicon, while accepting minority adjusting groups (PTs, DOs, MDs, etc.) to either use

chiropractic lexicon for the reasons above or use their own as they wish.

Thank you for helping us simplify the definition consistent with its current use, recognize that discussing this term subluxation first requires that we agree on a simple definition of this adjustive lesion, and perhaps further discuss potential associated attributes such as myopathology, kinesiotherapy (articular dysfunction and positional dyskinesia), histopathology, neuropathology and related pathophysiology.

Thank you again for formally addressing this important issue, Dr. Ebrall.