

Cost-effectiveness of Chiropractic Care

A retrospective claims analysis found that Tennessee Blue Cross/Blue Shield beneficiaries initiating care with chiropractic physicians had lower treatment costs for low back pain episodes than those initiating care with medical physicians.¹

A 2011 systematic review found that guideline-endorsed acupuncture, cognitive behavioral therapy, exercise, interdisciplinary rehabilitation, and spinal manipulation were all cost-effective for patients with sub-acute or chronic LBP. There was insufficient evidence for the cost-effectiveness of spinal manipulation for acute LBP.²

A 2012 systematic review found spinal manipulation was cost-effective for neck and back pain, used either alone or combined with other therapies.³

A prospective cohort study of Washington state workers found that 1.5% of workers who saw a chiropractor first for work-related back pain review later had surgery, compared to 42.7% of those who first saw a surgeon.⁴

References

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