

Holladay Physical Medicine

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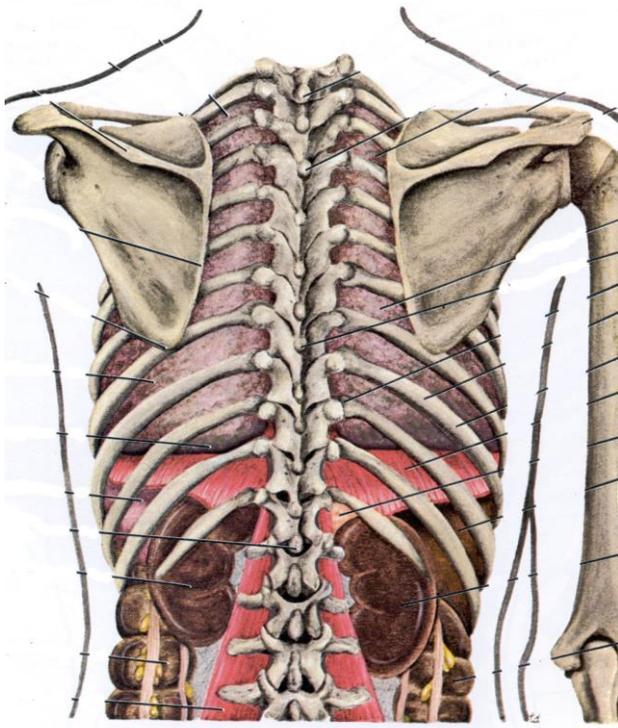
This Information is about this condition in general. Every individual has a unique presentation. Once you understand this information, consult the doctor on any specific questions about your condition.

Thoracic Sprain/Rib Head

Injuries to the mid back owed by a sudden movement of the back or ribs backward, forward, or twisting sideways, are referred to as "Sprain" if the ligaments are involved and "Strain" if the muscles are involved. They very often occur together and so we lump them into the term Sprain. Whether from an accident, or sometimes spontaneous from the build up of stress from daily living, sprains warrant a thorough chiropractic check-up. The biggest danger with sprain injuries is that the symptoms persist for years, particularly if not treated appropriately.

DISCUSSION:

When the rib heads become involved, irritation of the intercostals nerves is often felt in the form of a sharp pain penetrating the chest. This is often mistaken for heart pains. Once the rib head is repositioned, the pain should subside. It may take several days for it to stay located.



The condition: Note the ribs in the diagram to the left as they articulate (connect) to the bones of the spine. The fourth one down on the left is out of place upward. Between each pair of ribs is what is called an intercostals nerve. It runs around to the front on each sit. When the rid head is out of place like the 4th left one is here, it will place traction on the nerve. When this happens, there are two kinds of pain that occur. The first is the pain from the ligaments around the rib head in the back. A patient can usually tell that something is wrong back there. The 2nd one is a feeling like a knife is going right through the chest from front to back upon deep inspiration. This is the stretching of this nerve.

Once the tearing of the ligaments caused by the movement of the rib head out of place, has healed, the condition will subside. Sometimes this takes several days or weeks depending on the reduced activity of the patient.

STAGES OF HEALING & TREATMENT:

The soft tissues that are traumatized will go through four stages of healing:

- The first stage involves simply the immediate effects of injury, including bleeding, blood -clotting, and cellular breakdown. The inflammatory response is the primary means that the body uses to respond to-the injury.

- The purpose of the inflammatory stage is to surround the area of injury in an attempt to protect it. The effect of this response is usually proportional to the amount of injury sustained. This phase can last up to 3 days. *At this time the doctor may discuss with you the importance of utilizing ice packs, as this is important to reduce swelling and control pain.* Other therapies that will aid in the healing process include electrical stimulation & ultrasound.
- The repair stage is the process following and is dictated by the severity of the injury. The injury will heal by regeneration, which is essentially the replacement of the surrounding tissues by fibrous tissue, resulting in scarring or adhesions. This phase can last from 2 days to 6 weeks. *In this phase of healing, the doctor may recommend such things as alternating heat and ice to create a "flushing effect" in the blood supply and surrounding tissues. He may begin you on a stretching and/or strengthening exercise program, or recommend that you get a soft tissue massage for tightened muscles.* Adjustments may be performed on, above, or below the site of injury. The goals of your adjustments are to relieve nerve irritation and pressure, relieve pain and spasm, restore the normal motion of your neck, and increase its strength and stability.
- The body's response to stress constitutes the remodeling stage. This occurs when the residual scar tissue undergoes reorganization and reorientation along the lines of stress. *This phase is significant to the patient. The importance of continuing with the prescribed exercises and continuing to use moist heat on tight and sore muscles will be stressed by the doctor.*
- Treatment may be required for 3 weeks depending on patient compliance and complicating factors. It is very important to comply with all of the doctor's recommendations to insure proper healing and lessen the likelihood of recurrence.

The resulting instability of the spine and soft tissues are noteworthy and depend on several FACTORS.

Treatment frequency is usually daily for 3-7 days and then three times a week for 3-6 weeks. After that, realignment of the vertebra must be performed to prevent eventual return of this condition. It can be accomplished in 30-60 days of reduced frequency management. Often once a week treatment is sufficient at that point to restore alignment. Thereafter, this condition can be reasonably avoided with monthly correction of spinal alignment.

After the first few days of treatment, you will be given a sheet of stretching exercises to do at home. This is to help reduce the treatment time and speed healing. It is very important for you to do these daily as prescribed. If you have any questions about them or difficulty or pain on performing them, please tell the doctor right away.

Several days following the initiation of treatment, more aggressive exercise routines will be proscribed for you. You will be taken to the rehabilitation center and instructed on how to use the computer monitored exercise routines specifically designed for this condition. The routines are monitored for completion and graduated in difficulty after certain numbers of routines have been completed. You will be expected to perform these routines after treatment during the initial part of the restorative phase and throughout the rehabilitative phase of your treatment. Our goal is to help you get well and stay well. We know from experience that most mechanical conditions return gradually over a period of months and become more advanced each time. The only way this can be prevented is with exercise. We expect you to be successful.

We offer treatment of these conditions at various levels for all patients. We expect that you will follow this treatment plan through to its logical conclusion of restoration of complete function and rehabilitation. Our management system is designed to help you remember all of your appointments and to be fully compliant with all of our recommendations. At any time, should you decide to discontinue the process, please just let us know so that we don't become a bother.

LIFE STYLE CHANGES:

Long periods of stress should be avoided. Do not sleep or lie on your stomach and avoid activities that hyper extend the neck. Water intake should be increased substantially

HOME REMEDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Utilize ice packs on the neck back for 10 minutes at a time and moist heat packs on the muscles of the upper back at 20 minutes at a time, not simultaneously and not more often than once per hour. This should continue until the arm pain or numbness disappears. Hot tubs provide buoyancy and may be used after 5 days of onset for temporary relief.

Exercises should be specific and in a particular order and performed only under direct supervision of the doctor during the first 3 weeks and then by proscriptio only. Improper exercise can prolong or arrest recovery.

Expectations

We understand that you have come here for help. We have spent many years learning the best ways to solve the problems of mechanical back and neck pain. We expect you to comply with our recommendations and follow our treatment schedule completely regardless of the treatment plan you have. We expect you to set all of the recommended appointments at times convenient for you and we expect you to keep all of them. We expect you to respond favorably and know that your 100% compliance is the determining factor. We also expect you to attend our next class on Absolute Spinal Health. The staff can give you a schedule of the next class.

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USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

We do not prescribe drugs nor recommend their use if harmful side-effects are associated with your complaints. We also do not, in any case, recommend changes in the use of prescription drugs that a licensed physician has given you. If you believe alterations in those prescriptions are in the best interest of your health, always consult with the prescribing physician before making any changes.

NUTRITION AND SUPPLEMENTATION:

The ideal situation for nutrition in any injury or disease is first to eat whole foods, and to avoid processed foods, fast foods preservatives, refined carbohydrates and sugar. We have much information on our web page under Absolute Health Clinic. The physical medicine modalities we will provide you will help reduce the symptoms in the time we have projected. If you want to heal, this step is something you will need to take.

Nowadays, even if you do all of those things, you need to realize that our food supply has been gradually depleted. The pure ingredients needed to maintain body function, metabolism and immunity have been drastically reduced. We recommend only whole food supplements. Studies are clear that synthetic vitamins and mineral supplements are not only not helpful to the body in most cases, but can toxic. Don't expect them to take the place of what we recommend here. They will not help you sufficiently to heal properly. The following list has been prioritized to help you

gradually begin to supplement your improved diet and provide your body with the ingredients it needs to restore or improve your immune response and then provide the raw materials in usable form to repair the damaged or diseased tissue. The degree to which you can implement these items will largely determine how fast you recover and more importantly whether or not you have a recurrence or relapse of the symptoms again soon.

These products are all produced by Standard Process. You may obtain them on line from Amazon or other distributors if you like or we can order them for you and save you an average of \$5 per bottle plus you can avoid shipping charges.

GENERAL DAILY SUPPLEMENTS

- Catalyn
- Tuna Omega-3 oil
- Calcium Lactate
- Trace Minerals B12
- Cataplex D
- Prolamine Iodine

SPECIFIC FOR THIS CONDITION

- Biost
- Glucosamine Sulphate
- Ligaplex II
- Calcifood

Specific dosages will be provided by the doctor.

We have many other specific items for a variety of health deficient conditions. Consult our web page or ask the doctor.

HOME REMEDIES AND MEDICINES

After the first 1-3 days when you should be using 5-8 minutes of cold packs, utilize moist heat packs on a daily basis during the first phase of treatment. 15 minutes is the maximum therapeutic dose for heat in this condition. The application may be repeated with at least 15 minutes of non-heat rest in between. This will help relax tight muscle fibers and bring blood to the region. Hot tubs and baths with Epsom salts provide temporary relief.

The use of over-the-counter medications for pain and inflammation may be seen as necessary at first depending on your pain level and tolerance. Understand that we depend on your natural immune response to function well in order to heal this disorder. Some pain relievers and most anti-inflammatory medications shut off the inflammatory response which is what triggers your body's immune response mechanisms. If you need pain medicines of any kind to continue to function or to be able to do the exercise routines we have recommended, use good judgement in when you use them. We strongly suggest you consider ice packs for 5-10 minutes for pain relief and mechanical positioning of the injured areas to relieve pressure and pain. The more you are able to do these procedures and avoid medications, the faster your immune response will be effective and the sooner you will be out of pain and begin healing. The sooner you can stop taking pain medication, the better it will be for your healing.

EXERCISES:

Exercises should be specific, performed at the right time and in a particular order. They should be simple and aimed at pain relief and stabilization at first. Seek advice from your chiropractic physician on when to do these exercises and how often. When performed correctly, rehabilitation

exercises can be the key to avoiding multiple episodes of pain and maintaining the function of the muscles and joints.

Our goal here is to have you begin exercises as soon as the joint mobility has been restored sufficiently. Consistent and proper exercise rehabilitation will shorten your treatment time and help reduce recurrence of the same disorder.

We offer a video training featuring exercises specifically designed and proven effective if properly performed for the rehabilitation of this condition. These video files are available on our web page at www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com ---follow that link, then the exercise pulldown menu at the top center of the home page, choose therapeutic and then scroll down to:

neck and Thoracic spine

and perform them daily as soon as you can work it into your schedule. Along with the physical medicine we have recommended, it is the regular performance of these exercises that will get you well and keep you well.

MAINTENANCE:

Regular spinal adjustments and mild forms of physical therapy are important to reduce the symptoms on a regular basis. Patients who receive monthly spinal manipulation and therapy report fewer complications and improved life style. It is important that you follow your chiropractic physician's advice about the frequency of treatment for your particular condition.

OTHER INFORMATION:

We offer a wide variety of health information at our web site. www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com
All patients are welcome to use our information to improve your life and maintain your spinal health.

This information is provided to you as a health service by Dr. Bruce Gundersen, DC, DIANM. He is board certified by the International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and currently serves as chairman of the examination board for the Academy. He is also the President of the Utah College of Chiropractic Orthopedists and clinical director and chief clinician at Holladay Physical Medicine. He has practiced physical and regenerative medicine for over 40 years.