

Appendix A

Modified JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist for Case Series Studies

Instructions:

Response Options: Provide a detailed explanation in the comments section for all response options.

- **Yes:** All information reported
 - **No:** No information reported
 - **Unclear:** Partial or incomplete reporting
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- **Primary exposure:** Cervical manual therapy or visits to specified providers (chiropractors, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.)
 - **Outcome:** Ischemic stroke.
 - All participants are assumed to have neck pain/headache.
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1. Were the criteria for inclusion and exclusion of cases in the case series clearly described?

JBI Original Explanation: The authors should provide clear inclusion (and exclusion criteria where appropriate) for the study participants. The inclusion/exclusion criteria should be specified (e.g., age, sex, comorbidities) with sufficient detail and all the necessary information critical to the study. The selection of cases should be independent of the exposure.

Additional note: It should be clear that the participants were identified and included in the series based on their clinical presentation or diagnosis, not because they were exposed to a specific intervention or factor of interest.

Response Options:

- **Yes**
- **Unclear**
- **No**

Comments: Provide a detailed explanation regarding your response.

2. Did the case series have CONSECUTIVE and COMPLETE inclusion of eligible cases?

JBI Original Explanation: Studies that indicate a consecutive and complete inclusion are more reliable than those that do not. For example, a case series that states ‘we included all patients (24) with osteosarcoma who presented to our clinic between March 2005 and June 2006’ is more reliable than a study that simply states ‘we report a case series of 24 people with osteosarcoma.’

Response Options:

- **Yes**
- **Unclear**

- No

Comments: Provide a detailed explanation regarding your response.

3. Was the exposure/treatment (e.g., cervical manual therapy (e.g., spinal manipulation, massage, etc.) or visits to specified providers (chiropractors, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.)) clearly described?

JBI Original Explanation: It is important to clearly describe the exposure. The report should describe the treatment/intervention protocol in detail.

Our Additional Notes: The description of the intervention should include the type of intervention (manipulation, mobilization, traction, etc.), location of treatment (region of the spine), and frequency (if applicable).

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No

Comments: Provide a detailed explanation regarding your response.

4. Was the diagnosis of stroke made in a standard and reliable way for all cases included in the case series?

JBI Original Explanation: The study should clearly describe the method of measurement of the condition. This should be done in a standard (i.e. same way for all patients) and reliable (i.e. repeatable and reproducible results) way.

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No

Comments: Provide a detailed explanation regarding your response.

5. Did exposure precede the diagnosis of stroke?

Note: It is important that the temporal relationship between the exposure and the stroke diagnosis be clearly described.

Response Options:

- **Yes**
- **Unclear**
- **No**

Comments: Provide a detailed explanation regarding your response.

Overall Appraisal

- **Acceptable** (low or moderate ROB) : All criteria are rated as “YES”
- **Unacceptable** (high ROB): At least one criteria is rated as “No”

Modified JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist for Case Reports

Instructions:

Response Options: Provide a detailed explanation in the comments section for all response options.

- **Yes:** All information is clearly reported.
 - **No:** No information is reported.
 - **Unclear:** Partial but incomplete reporting.
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- **Primary exposure:** Cervical manual therapy or visits to specified providers (chiropractors, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.)
 - **Outcome:** Ischemic stroke.
 - All participants are assumed to have neck pain/headache.
-

1. Was the demographic information of the patient clearly reported?

Explanation: The demographic of the case should be clearly reported. This should include the patient's sex and age, at a minimum.

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No

2. Was the clinical information of the case clearly reported?

JBI Original Explanation: The clinical information of the case, including medical and family history, previous treatment, pre-exposure/treatment diagnosis (diagnostic test results if available), previous treatments, medications, and the reason for presentation.

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No

2. Was the exposure/treatment (e.g., cervical manual therapy (e.g., spinal manipulation, massage, etc.) or visits to specified providers (chiropractors, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.)) clearly described?

JBI Original Explanation: It is important to clearly describe the exposure. The report should describe the treatment/intervention protocol in detail.

Our Additional Notes: The description of the intervention should include the type of intervention (manipulation, mobilization, traction, etc.), location of treatment (region of the spine), and frequency (if applicable).

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No

3. Was the post-intervention clinical condition clearly described?

JBI Original Explanation: The clinical condition post-intervention in terms of the presence or lack of symptoms should be clearly described.

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No
- Not Applicable (N/A)

4. Was the diagnosis of stroke made in a standard and reliable way?

JBI Original Explanation: The study should clearly describe the method of measurement of the condition. This should be done in a standard and reliable way.

Response Options:

- Yes
- Unclear
- No

Comments: Provide a detailed explanation regarding your response.

5. Did exposure/treatment (e.g., cervical manual therapy) precede the diagnosis of stroke?

Additional Note: It is important to clearly describes the temporal relationship between the exposure and the stroke diagnosis.

Response Options:

- **Yes**
- **Unclear**
- **No**

Overall Appraisal

- **Acceptable** (low or moderate ROB): All criteria are rated as “YES”
- **Unacceptable** (high ROB): At least one criteria is rated as “No”