COLLABORATIVE MODEL OF MANUAL THERAPY/REHABILITATION SERVICE DELIVERY TO PAIN PATIENTS BETWEEN AN ACADEMIC PAIN CLINIC AND THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE: A CASE SERIES.

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

Multimodal therapies for chronic pain management are mostly funded by third-party payers. Unfortunately, many chronic pain patients have no access to such funding. The aim of this study is to demonstrate the successful collaboration between a tertiary care pain program (Comprehensive Pain Program -CPP- at the Toronto Western Hospital) and the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) in the treatment of chronic pain patients who lack third party funding.

METHODS

Patients diagnosed with biomedical pathologies amenable to chiropractic manual care and rehabilitation by CPP team members, were referred to the CMCC, where payment for services is less expensive than the surrounding community. Treatments were delivered by fourth year chiropractic interns, under the guidance of academic chiropractic clinicians. Interns had to complete a Patient Findings Questionnaire on the initial chiropractic consultation and after 12 visits. The questionnaire was developed to facilitate efficient inter-professional communication and compiled data on the patients’ physical findings, pain ratings and evidence-based outcome measures.

RESULTS

Preliminary analysis indicates noticeable benefits, even in patients with advanced chronic mechanical and neuropathic pain conditions. Detailed data will outline demographics and measurable responses of patients who have completed the program.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

This collaborative model between an academic pain clinic and a training institution is a win-win model for provision of rehabilitative care to patients lacking third party funding, while advancing the chiropractic students’ education in chronic pain. The results can be generalizable to other healthcare training colleges (ie. Naturopathic College, Massage therapy etc).

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