

Policy statement by the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia regarding the vertebral subluxation complex

The vertebral subluxation complex (VSC) is a conceptual model that has resulted in much debate and controversy. Some chiropractors use this model to inform their clinical decision making. However, in order to assess the clinical utility of the vertebral subluxation complex additional knowledge and research is required about the following:

1. Reliable and valid means of identifying the presence of the VSC
2. The prognosis associated with the VSC
3. Effective methods of treating the VSC
4. The safety profile and cost effectiveness of VSC treatment

The General Chiropractic Council, which is the statutory and regulatory body for the chiropractic profession in the UK, has produced the following policy statement with respect to the VSC¹:

"The chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex is an historical concept but it remains a theoretical model. It is not supported by any clinical research evidence that would allow claims to be made that it is the cause of disease."

The Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia is in agreement with the General Chiropractic Council policy statement and support their position on the VSC.

General Chiropractic Council. Guidance on claims made for the chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex: [http://www.gcc.uk.org/files/link file/Guidance on claims made for the chiropractic VSC 18August10.pdf](http://www.gcc.uk.org/files/link%20file/Guidance%20on%20claims%20made%20for%20the%20chiropractic%20VSC%2018August10.pdf). Accessed 28 January, 2012.