DECLARATION

I declare that that this research is my own unaided work, except where otherwise indicated. It is being submitted for the Master of Technology in Chiropractic at the University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree of examination at any other University.

_____ _____

Brenda Ratzeburg Date

DEDICATION

Firstly, to my Lord and Saviour, thank you for your guidance, strengthening power and answered prayers. May Yours be the glory.

To my parents, thank you for all your love, support through my studies, your guidance and prayers and always being willing to help.

To my sister, Shari, thank you for being so willing to help with my research and for all the times you had to pick me up from university. And Ross, thank you.

To my Nana, thank you for all your support and encouragement.

To Andrew, thank you for all your love and support, help with research, for listening and for always making me smile.

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ABSTRACT

Worldwide there was a growing trend towards the recognition of Chiropractic, but little was known of this recognition in South Africa. However, with regards to the Western Region of Johannesburg, it was unclear how the medical profession viewed Chiropractic and how effective they viewed Chiropractic in the treatment of neuromusculoskeletal conditions.

This study attempted to establish how medical doctors viewed Chiropractic and to determine how Chiropractors compared to physiotherapists in the opinion of the medical profession in the treatment of common neuromusculoskeletal conditions.

A questionnaire was hand-delivered to the consulting rooms of each general practitioner, orthopedic surgeon and neurologist/neurosurgeon in the Western Region of Johannesburg. The researcher with the aid of a statistical consultant drew up the questionnaire.

The data was analysed using the SPSS 13 (2005), SPSS Incorporated, Chicago using descriptives and frequencies. To compare Chiropractic treatment to physiotherapy, statistical significance was calculated using a Paired Samples Test (T-Test).

The results of this study found that the doctors had a positive view of Chiropractic as a profession. When comparing Chiropractic to physiotherapy, statistical analysis revealed that physiotherapy was seen as more effective. Physiotherapists were also more likely to receive referrals from medical doctors than Chiropractors.

The results of this study were in accordance with worldwide trends in that Chiropractic was growing in recognition and was viewed as beneficial in the health care system. However, more education of the medical profession with regards to Chiropractic and more research comparing Chiropractic effectiveness compared to physiotherapy were needed.

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