

A NOVEL AND ACCURATE PALPATION METHOD FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE L4 SPINOUS PROCESS

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The purpose of this retrospective study is to determine the reliability of a novel palpation method for identifying the L4 spinous process. The traditional method uses the iliac crests as the landmark for identifying L4 spinous process which has a reported accuracy of 50-60%. MRI scans from an earlier project "Relationship of Cavitation to Gapping Following Spinal Manipulation" (H-0906) will be used for this project; in that project, L4 spinous process was identified using a palpation procedure to differentiate the sacrum from L5 spinous process. A high signal MRI marker was placed on the L4 spinous process of participants prior to MRI. In this study, the location of the high signal marker on the resulting MRI scans will be evaluated to determine if the palpation method used to identify L4 is superior to the traditional method.

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