

A Study of Physiotherapists' and Chiropractors' Knowledge and  
Opinions of Osteopaths.

**Natasha Hough B.Sc.(Clinical Sciences)**

School of Health Sciences  
Faculty of Human Development  
Victoria University

**Dr. Brian Nicholls MA DO**

Lecturer in Osteopathy  
School of Health Sciences  
Faculty of Human Development  
Victoria University

**Dr. Jim Kiatos MB BS ND**

Lecturer in Osteopathy  
School of Health Sciences  
Faculty of Human Development  
Victoria University

**Address for correspondence:**

Dr. Brian Nicholls  
School of Health Sciences  
City Campus  
Victoria University  
PO Box 14428  
MC  
Melbourne, Victoria 8001

Ph: (03) 9248-1150

Fax: (03) 9248-1112

Email: [Brian.Nicholls@vu.edu.au](mailto:Brian.Nicholls@vu.edu.au)

## **Abstract**

### **Objectives:**

To evaluate the knowledge and opinions held by physiotherapists' and chiropractors' of osteopaths in Victoria.

### **Method:**

Surveys were distributed to 400 physiotherapists and 400 chiropractors within Victoria. Data on knowledge, opinions, inter-professional referral rates and inter-professional communication was gathered using mostly closed questions.

### **Results:**

Practitioners predominantly rated their knowledge of osteopaths as 'average'. Chiropractors had a more extensive knowledge of osteopathy compared to physiotherapists. Practitioners felt that osteopaths most commonly treated neck pain, low back pain, thoracic pain, and headaches. Practitioners indicated the possibility of future patient referral to osteopaths as 34.8% for physiotherapists compared with 63.4% of chiropractors. 72.3% of physiotherapists and 72.5% of chiropractors indicated that they did not communicate with osteopaths.

### **Conclusion:**

Practitioners showed interest in increasing their knowledge of osteopathy and improving the level of communication and collaboration between practitioners when treating a patient simultaneously. This may allow for increased inter-professional referral of patients.

**Key words:** Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Chiropractic, Manual Therapy, Relationships, Complementary and Alternative therapy.

## **Introduction**

Manual medicine plays an integral role in the health care of many Australians. The use of manual medicine is increasing at a phenomenal rate. In Australia, approximately 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the population receive alternative treatments annually, with up to half of the population having sought alternative treatment at some point, at an estimated expenditure of over 900 million dollars.<sup>1</sup>

A growing dissatisfaction with orthodox medicine has been proposed as a motive for patients seeking alternative health care.<sup>2</sup> It has been suggested that alternative practitioners better address psycho-social and emotional elements of patient care and provide qualities such as increased consultation time, empathy, and counselling that has been lacking from patients' relationships with orthodox medical practitioners.<sup>2,3</sup> Complementary and alternative therapies are generally considered to include acupuncture, homoeopathy, herbal medicine, manipulative medicine (osteopathy and chiropractic) and nutritional medicine.<sup>4</sup>

With increasing emphasis being placed on manual health care it becomes necessary for manual practitioners of different fields to have a sound working knowledge of their fellow professionals. Various health practitioners including osteopaths, physiotherapists and chiropractors commonly treat musculoskeletal disorders. Practitioners of different health disciplines will often be treating a patient simultaneously, which requires collaboration between the treating practitioners in order to achieve a higher level of patient care.

Communication between different health professions has been investigated in the past, however, previous research has focused on the attitudes and referrals of medical practitioners and medical students toward complementary therapies.<sup>5,6,7,8,9,10,11</sup> Studies have shown that while orthodox medical practitioners have a high level of knowledge of physiotherapy, their understanding of osteopathy and chiropractic is poor. A five year old study conducted in Queensland by Simpson, highlighted that physiotherapists received endorsement from 95% of General Practitioners while chiropractors received 23% approval and osteopaths only 10%.<sup>10</sup>

A study in the Netherlands by Langworthy and Smink also found that a greater level of knowledge and understanding was correlated with increased professional acceptance and respect.<sup>12</sup>

The relationships between the major manual practitioners; osteopaths, physiotherapists and chiropractors is poorly documented. This study sought to explore the current working knowledge and opinions that physiotherapists and chiropractors have of the osteopathic profession in order to determine potential areas for improving collaboration and therefore achieving a higher level of patient care.

## **Methods**

### *Participants*

A sample of 400 physiotherapists and 400 chiropractors from Victoria were chosen randomly from yellow pages online (<http://www.yellowpages.com.au>)<sup>13</sup> The first 400 practitioners from yellow pages online were downloaded from each practitioner group in alphabetical order. These practitioners received a copy of the questionnaire. Practitioners were selected without consideration of practice location or gender.

### *Design*

A questionnaire was chosen as the method of data collection as it allowed a greater number of practitioners to be surveyed as opposed to interview, and allowed clearer statistical analysis (See Appendix A).

The questionnaire was adapted from surveys used in previous studies by Todd, Kiatos & Nicholls (unpublished dissertation)<sup>14</sup> and Carnell & Nicholls (unpublished dissertation)<sup>5</sup> which went through a process of validation. The questionnaire used in this study was reviewed by experts in questionnaire design. The questionnaire was designed to elicit the current opinions and level of knowledge of the therapists' surveyed. A closed format was used for the majority of the questions.

The questionnaire was distributed with a statement of information to participants including an explanation of the purpose of the study and a statement of guaranteed confidentiality (See Appendix B). A reply paid envelope was provided.

Physiotherapists and chiropractors received identical questionnaires.

Demographic data was requested regarding sex, age, practice location, years in practice and qualifications. Participants were asked to rate their knowledge of osteopathy and to state where they had gained their knowledge when provided with a list of possible information sources. Practitioners were asked to indicate the conditions they believed would benefit from osteopathic treatment out of 12 possible conditions that can be treated manually.

A series of questions relating to osteopathy and its practice were asked such as; 'Have you ever been treated by an osteopath?', 'Would you ever refer a patient to an osteopath?', 'Do you communicate with osteopaths within your scope of practice?'. Possible answers included "yes", "no" and "unsure".

Participants were asked to state their opinion on the status of osteopathy within the orthodox medical system and within the complementary field and indicate if they had an interest in learning more about the osteopathic profession.

Lastly, practitioners were asked to indicate whether they believed that the relationships between the professions of osteopathy, physiotherapy and chiropractic could be improved and whether they felt patients would benefit from inter-professional communication when treating a patient in conjunction with an osteopath. Scoring for these questions was on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Descriptive statistics were used to demonstrate the results of this study and were analysed through excel and SPSS programs.

## **Results**

Two hundred and forty three questionnaires were returned, giving a response rate of 30.37%. 46% of responses were from physiotherapists and 54% were from chiropractors. The majority of returns were from males (60%). 46% of returns were from the over 40 age group with 27 % of respondents having spent more than 20 years in practice.

Sixty eight percent of practitioners rated their knowledge of osteopaths as 'average' indicating that they had some knowledge of the conditions treated and the techniques used by osteopaths. Of the practitioners that rated their knowledge as average, 55.4% were chiropractors and 44.6% were physiotherapists. 18% of respondents rated their knowledge as extensive and 14% rated their knowledge as limited. Of the practitioners considered to have extensive knowledge, 77.3% of these were chiropractors with the remainder (22.7%) physiotherapists. A substantially larger proportion of physiotherapists rated their knowledge of osteopathy as limited (84.8%) compared with only 15.2% of chiropractors.

**Insert figure 1.1 (Appendix C).**

**Insert figure 1.2.**

Responses showed that the majority (25.19%) of practitioners obtained their knowledge of osteopaths during their professional training. The second most common source of information was via patients seen in practice (19.12%), followed by working relationships and professional contacts (15.33%). Sources of information used to gain knowledge of osteopathy are listed in table 1.

**Insert Table 1.**

Practitioners were confident that osteopaths treat common conditions such as low back pain, thoracic pain, neck pain and head aches. Respondents were less sure of the osteopaths' role in treating conditions such as rib pain, peripheral joint pain, sports injuries, and arthritis. Approximately half of practitioners agreed that osteopaths could treat asthma and visceral pain with 49.8% and 52.3% agreement respectively.

**Insert Table 2.**

Eighty percent of respondents did not have any working relationships with osteopaths. The majority of physiotherapists (77.7%) and chiropractors surveyed (81.7%) were not currently involved in working relationships with osteopaths. 92.9% of physiotherapists and 93.9% of chiropractors were not currently employed at a practice that also employed osteopaths.

**Insert figure 2.1.**

**Insert figure 2.2.**

In regard to future inter-professional referral, 34.8% of physiotherapists stated that they would refer patients to osteopaths compared to 63.4% of chiropractors. 48.2% of physiotherapists and 24.4% of chiropractors indicated that they would not refer patients to osteopaths. 17% of physiotherapists and 12.2% of chiropractors were unsure about the possibility of future referral.

**Insert figure 3.**

Twenty eight point six percent of physiotherapists stated that they had previously referred a patient to an osteopath compared to 48.9% of chiropractors.

**Insert figure 4.**

Forty seven percent of the total of practitioners indicated that they had previously treated a patient in conjunction with an osteopath. A larger proportion of physiotherapists (49.1%) compared to chiropractors (44.3%) had previously treated a patient in conjunction with an osteopath.

**Insert figure 5.**

The majority of practitioners (72%) did not communicate with osteopaths. 72.3% of physiotherapists and 72.5% of chiropractors indicated that they were not in communication with osteopaths. 70.5% physiotherapists and 84% chiropractors had working relationships with complementary or alternative therapists other than

osteopaths. 22% indicated that they were not currently communicating with complementary or alternative practitioners.

**Insert figure 6.**

**Insert figure 7.**

Responses showed that 53% disagreed with the statement that “osteopathy has a high status within the orthodox medical system”. 50.9% of physiotherapists disagreed with the statement and 29.5% were unsure. 55% of chiropractors disagreed and 28.2% were unsure.

**Insert figure 8.**

In response to the statement; “osteopathy has a high status within the complementary and alternative health field” 50% of physiotherapists agreed, 8% strongly agreed and 36.6% were unsure. Chiropractors were similar in their response; 45% agreed, 10.7% strongly agreed and 22.9% were unsure.

**Insert figure 9.**

Finally, the questionnaire aimed to establish whether there was potential for the future development of relationships between osteopaths, physiotherapists and chiropractors. When asked whether they were interested in learning more about the osteopathic profession, 14.3% of physiotherapists disagreed, 46.4% agreed, 11.6% strongly agreed and 24.1% were unsure. 19.1% of chiropractors disagreed with the statement, 38.9% agreed, 6.1% strongly agreed and 29.8% were unsure.

**Insert figure 10.**

Fifty nine point eight percent of physiotherapists agreed and 22.3% strongly agreed that the relationships between physiotherapists, chiropractors and osteopaths could be improved, while 45% chiropractors agreed and 35.9% strongly agreed. 46% of practitioners strongly agreed and 35% disagreed that a patient would benefit from communication between treating practitioners when treating a patient in

conjunction with an osteopath. 33.9% of physiotherapists agreed and 48.2% strongly agreed. Within the chiropractic profession, 35.9% agreed and 44.3% strongly agreed to the statement.

**Insert figure 11.**

**Insert figure 12.**

## **Discussion**

### ***Knowledge of osteopathy***

Previous research has shown that medical practitioners and students as well as complementary students possessed a high level of knowledge of physiotherapy, followed by chiropractic, with the least knowledge of osteopathy.<sup>5,10,14</sup>

The results of this study highlight that most physiotherapists and chiropractors have an average knowledge of osteopathy, the conditions treated and the techniques used. Chiropractors have a more detailed knowledge of osteopathy than physiotherapists. Due to the degree of similarity between the professions it is expected that physiotherapists and chiropractors would have some knowledge of osteopathy. The finding that chiropractors have a greater knowledge of osteopaths compared to physiotherapists may stem from a closer association between the two professions. Osteopathy and chiropractic have been linked through a history of combined registration, associations such as the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia (COCA) and students of both professions continue to study in association at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

Practitioners possessed a basic understanding of the conditions treated by osteopaths, but were less confident of the osteopaths' ability to treat peripheral conditions, arthritides and rib pain. Approximately half of the practitioners agreed that osteopaths were capable of having an effect on asthma and visceral conditions. While osteopaths have often treated asthmatic and visceral complaints they are perhaps not as commonly treated as simple musculoskeletal complaints.<sup>15</sup> This may account for the limited knowledge held by physiotherapists and chiropractors in relation to osteopathic treatment of these conditions.

### ***Sources of information***

Results indicate that practitioners predominantly gained their knowledge of osteopathy through professional training, communication with patients and professional relationships and contacts. In previous studies GP's have identified undergraduate training and patient contact as primary sources of information in learning of manual therapies. However, GP's found personal communication with manual therapists to be the most influential form of communication.<sup>5</sup>

The findings of this study showed professional relationships and contacts to be the third most common source of information. This may indicate that osteopaths are not making themselves known to physiotherapists and chiropractors and are therefore missing an opportunity to advocate themselves. In this case it is up to members of the osteopathic profession to introduce themselves to other practitioners and discuss their scope of practice and philosophies of treatment.

### ***Physiotherapists' and Chiropractors' opinions of osteopaths***

Only 11% of practitioners agreed that osteopathy has a high status within the orthodox medical system. This finding is supported by previous research, which found that while general medical practitioners endorse the use of physiotherapy for musculoskeletal complaints, they know little of osteopathy and chiropractic and therefore do not endorse them as readily.

Practitioners' opinion of osteopathy's status within the complementary and alternative health field received a more positive response. This indicates that while physiotherapists and chiropractors are doubtful of osteopathy's standing within the orthodox medical system they are more confident that osteopaths are held in high regard within the complementary field.

### ***Potential for Inter-professional referral***

Previous research has predominantly investigated the referral patterns of general practitioners to manual therapists.<sup>5,10</sup> This research has indicated, not surprisingly, that general practitioners tend to refer primarily to physiotherapists, of whom they have the most knowledge. The same may be true within the varying manual therapy fields. While there is some crossover between the practices, each manual therapy has its area of specialty. Certain conditions may be better treated by a particular manual therapy. A reluctance to refer to other manual therapists may stem from a lack of knowledge about the profession and the conditions that the practitioner is capable of treating or from a perceived rivalry between the professions. Results indicated that only 28.6% of physiotherapists had previously referred a patient to an osteopath compared to 48.9% of chiropractors. A similar trend was seen in regards to future referral possibilities. Almost twice as many chiropractors compared to physiotherapists indicated that they would refer future patients to an osteopath. This

result is surprising due to the perceived rivalry that exists particularly between osteopathy and chiropractic. This is most likely due to chiropractors having an increased knowledge of the osteopathy. Previous studies investigating GP referral rates to manual therapists have shown that the referring practitioner's knowledge of a profession will strongly influence their choice of referral.<sup>5,10</sup> Improved communication between practitioners and an increased knowledge is needed to improve referral rates between osteopathy, physiotherapy and chiropractic.

### ***Inter-professional communication***

While communication may be commonplace between general practitioners and manual therapists, particularly physiotherapists, it is not necessarily accepted practice between manual practitioners of different professions. An overwhelming majority of responding practitioners were not communicating with osteopaths. The findings of this study indicate that despite 47% of practitioners stating that they had treated a patient in conjunction with an osteopath, 72% of physiotherapists and chiropractors were not communicating with osteopaths. This indicates that practitioners are treating simultaneously but are not discussing their treatment with each other for the betterment of the patient. Greater levels of communication are needed to rectify this problem so that practitioners are able to provide their patients with a higher level of care.

### ***Potential for the future development of inter-professional relationships***

Communication between osteopathy, physiotherapy and chiropractic must be improved to provide an integrated and efficient health care system. As the demand for manual therapy increases it is becoming more necessary for manual practitioners to have a sound working knowledge of their fellow professionals. Collaboration between professionals will allow patients to be provided with informed choices regarding the type of manual care they require, thereby allowing them to receive the highest level of care for their complaint. This may require referral between the three professions if it is evident that a patient's complaint will be better dealt with by another practitioner.

The results of the survey indicate that almost half of respondents were interested in learning more about osteopathy. The majority of practitioners agreed that the

relationships between physiotherapists, chiropractors and osteopaths require improvement. Practitioners also indicated that when treating a patient in conjunction with an osteopath, communication between the treating practitioners would benefit the patient. These findings demonstrate that there is an opportunity for osteopaths to provide interested practitioners with information to improve their knowledge of osteopathy. This will allow for increased inter-referral and improved relationships between the manual professions.

### ***Limitations of the study***

A number of limitations were evident in this study. Resources did not allow the entire population of treating physiotherapists and chiropractors to be surveyed therefore only a portion of each profession was given the opportunity to respond. However, to make the sample representative of the practitioner population surveyed a random sample was chosen irrespective of gender or practice location.

The first 400 practitioners from yellow pages online were downloaded from each practitioner group in alphabetical order. These practitioners received a copy of the questionnaire.

A low response rate of 30.37% was achieved meaning that the opinions of a relatively low number of practitioners were collected.<sup>16</sup>

A typing error on the final question of the questionnaire meant that there was some confusion as to the responses indicated. Strongly disagree was written as strongly agree. However, very few responses marked this option and therefore the effect on the findings of this study was minimal.

### **Recommendations**

There is little research with which to compare the findings of this study. Possibilities for future research should focus on methods of providing practitioners with information about osteopathy and improving communication between practitioners so that effective referral can be achieved.

Due to the lack of research on this subject, both within Australia and internationally, any future research done in this area would greatly benefit all three professions.

## **Conclusion**

As the demand for manual treatment continues to grow it becomes increasingly likely that osteopaths, physiotherapists and chiropractors will treat a patient simultaneously for the same or different complaints. Alternately, a patient may have been to see a member of another profession and now requires a different form of treatment. These circumstances require collaboration between the practitioners to enable the practitioner to provide the patient with the highest level of care. At present, practitioners of the manual fields are not communicating despite the finding that many practitioners are treating patients in conjunction with osteopaths. This problem needs to be rectified if practitioners wish to create an integrated and effective health care system for its users.

The findings of this study provide a number of suggestions that may prove useful in the future development of the relationships between the major manual professions of osteopathy, physiotherapy and chiropractic. It is apparent that a lack of knowledge about the professional scope of osteopaths exists and this may be impacting the professional relationships between the fields. Physiotherapists and chiropractors have a positive opinion of osteopathy within the complementary and alternative field and showed interest in learning more about the osteopathic profession. This provides members of all three professions with an opportunity to give and seek information and therefore increase the level of knowledge that practitioners have of their fellow professionals. The relationships between the manual fields require improvement and this can be achieved through a greater level of knowledge and communication. This will allow the potential for referral of patients between the professions, thereby allowing patients to receive the manual care that is most appropriate to their particular complaint.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## Appendix A

### **A study of Physiotherapists' and Chiropractors' knowledge and perceptions of Osteopaths.**

**Please complete this survey if you wish to participate in the above named study.**

**Reference:**

#### **Physiotherapy/Chiropractic Survey**

**NOTE: The completion and return of this survey implies that you consent to your participation in this research study and the publication of its findings.**

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Please tick the appropriate box.

1. I am a practising physiotherapist ☐ chiropractor ☐

2. I am female ☐ male ☐

3. I am:

-21-25 years of age ☐

-26-30 years of age ☐

-31-35 years of age ☐

-36-40 years of age ☐

-Over 40 years of age ☐

4. Do you work in a rural ☐ or metropolitan ☐ location?

5. How long have you been practising in your profession? Please specify the period of time that you have been practising for.

-Less than 1 year in practice ☐

-1-5 years ☐

-6-10 years ☐

-10-15 years ☐

-15-20 years ☐

-over 20 years in practice ☐

6. Do you have qualifications in any other profession?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Or have you studied in any other profession at any time?

Yes ☐

No ☐.

If you answered yes to either of the above questions, please specify the profession.

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7. For the following question please use the scale below to record your response:

A=	Extensive knowledge: you have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the profession including the types of conditions treated, techniques used and the principles that the therapy is based on.
B=	Average knowledge: you have some knowledge of the conditions treated and techniques used by the profession.
C=	Limited knowledge: you know that the profession exists.
D=	No knowledge: you have never heard of the profession.

With reference to the above table, how would you rate your knowledge of Osteopathy?  
Please tick the appropriate box.

A	B	C	D

8. If you answered A, B or C in the above question please tick the information source from which you learned your information about Osteopathy. You may tick more than 1 box.

Through your professional training for the profession you are currently practising in.	
Through previous training or practice in a different profession.	
Via the patients that you treat in practice.	
Pamphlets or other advertising.	
Family/friends	
Seminars/conferences	
Personal experience with the therapy	
Internet sites	
Through working relationships or contacts	
Other, please specify	

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please tick the conditions listed below that you feel would benefit from Osteopathic treatment. You may tick more than 1 box.

1. Low back pain (LBP)	
2. LBP and leg pain	
3. Thoracic pain	
4. Neck pain	
5. Neck and arm pain	
6. Asthma	
7. Headaches	
8. Peripheral joint pain	
9. Sports injuries	
10. Rib pain	
11. Visceral pain	
12. Arthritis	

10. Please tick the most appropriate response to each of the following statements.

	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Osteopaths are government registered practitioners in all states and territories in Australia			
2. Over the past 10 years, the number of Osteopaths practising in Australia has increased.			
3. Have you ever been treated by an Osteopath?			
4. If you have been treated by an Osteopath, was your experience positive?			
5. Have any of your family members or close friends been treated by an Osteopath?			
6. Do you currently have any working relationships with Osteopaths?			
7. Do you currently work with any Osteopaths in the place where you are employed?			
8. Would you refer a patient/s to an Osteopath?			
9. Have you ever referred a patient of yours to an Osteopath?			
10. Have you ever treated a patient in conjunction with an Osteopath?			
11. Do you communicate with Osteopaths within your scope of practice?			
12. Do you currently have any working relationship with any other complementary or alternative therapists? If yes, please state which profession.			

11. For the following statements please use the following scale to indicate your opinion with a tick in the corresponding box.



## **Appendix B**

### **Victoria University of Technology**

#### **Consent Form for Subjects Involved in Research Study**

##### **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS:**

You are invited to participate in a study investigating the knowledge and perceptions held by Physiotherapists and Chiropractors of Osteopaths in Victoria. A short questionnaire will be used to gather the information required for this study.

The information gathered will be used to determine the current knowledge and perceptions that practitioners in the fields of Physiotherapy and Chiropractic have of Osteopathic practitioners in Victoria. This study will also aim to identify areas where inter-professional collaboration needs to be improved in the interests of improving patient care. The data collected in this investigation may be published. However, no participants will be identified by name.

You will find an attached survey to be completed in pen and returned in the envelope provided for you. The survey is expected to take approximately 10 minutes to complete. By completing the survey for this study it is implied that you consent to participate. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary.

The study is entitled: **A Study of Physiotherapists' and Chiropractors' Knowledge and Perceptions of Osteopaths** and is being conducted at Victoria University by Natasha Hough and Dr Brian Nicholls.

##### **Procedures:**

A survey of the knowledge and perceptions of Physiotherapists and Chiropractors towards Osteopaths is being conducted. You have been randomly selected as one of the practitioners to participate in this study if you wish to do so. The attached questionnaire consists mainly of closed questions. If you wish to know the results of the study or have any questions regarding the research please feel free to contact the researchers at any time.

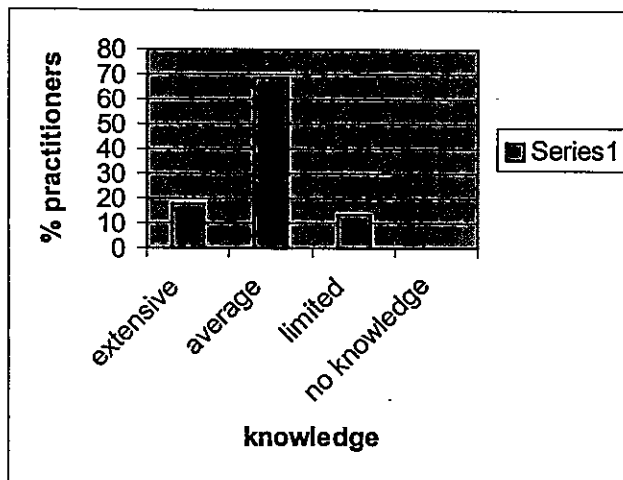
Completion of the questionnaire implies consent to participate in this research study.

If you have any queries about this study you can contact the researchers (Natasha Hough or Dr Brian Nicholls (03) 9248 1150). If you have any queries or complaints about the way in which you have been treated feel free to contact the Secretary, University Human Research Ethics Committee, Victoria University of Technology, PO Box 14428 MC, Melbourne, 8001, (03) 9688 4710.

## Appendix C.

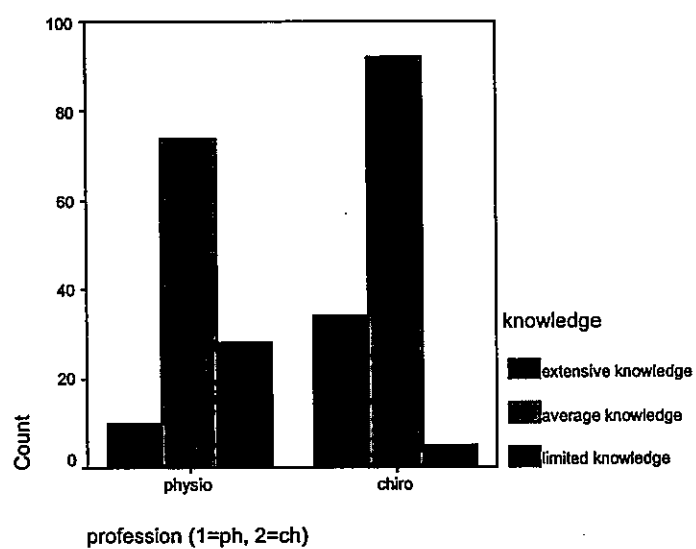
**Figure 1.1**

**Total practitioners' level of knowledge of osteopaths.**



**Figure 1.2.**

**Comparison of physiotherapists' and chiropractors' level of knowledge of osteopaths.**



**Table 1.**

**Sources of information used to gain knowledge of osteopathy.**

<b>Information source</b>	<b>Total responses</b>	<b>% total responses</b>
<b>Professional training</b>	166	25.19
<b>Previous training</b>	13	1.97
<b>Via patients in practice</b>	126	19.12
<b>Pamphlets/advertising</b>	36	5.46
<b>Family/friends</b>	55	8.35
<b>Seminars/conferences</b>	60	9.10
<b>Personal experience</b>	65	9.86
<b>Internet</b>	5	.76
<b>Working relationships &amp; contacts</b>	101	15.33
<b>Other</b>	32	4.85

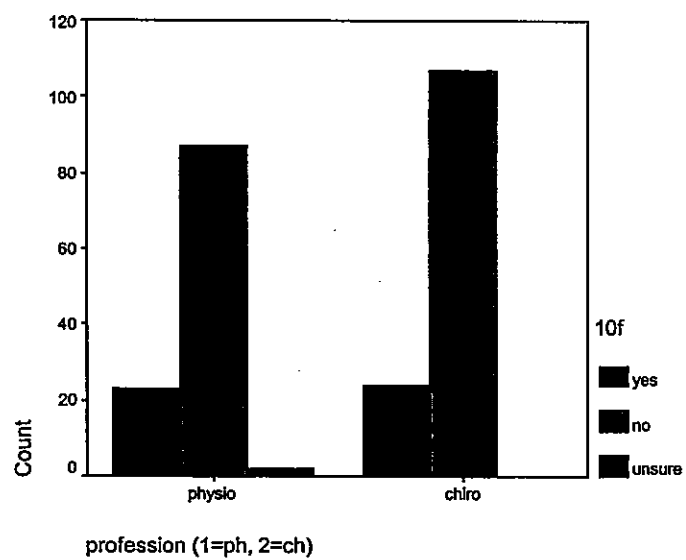
**Table 2.**

**Conditions that physiotherapists and chiropractors believe would benefit from osteopathic treatment.**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>% of responses</b>
<b>Low back pain</b>	235	96.7
<b>Low back &amp; leg pain</b>	228	93.8
<b>Thoracic pain</b>	234	96.3
<b>Neck pain</b>	238	97.9
<b>Neck &amp; arm pain</b>	229	94.2
<b>Asthma</b>	121	49.8
<b>Headaches</b>	224	92.2
<b>Peripheral joint pain</b>	208	85.6
<b>Sports injuries</b>	187	77.0
<b>Rib pain</b>	209	86.0
<b>Visceral pain</b>	127	52.3
<b>Arthritis</b>	190	78.2

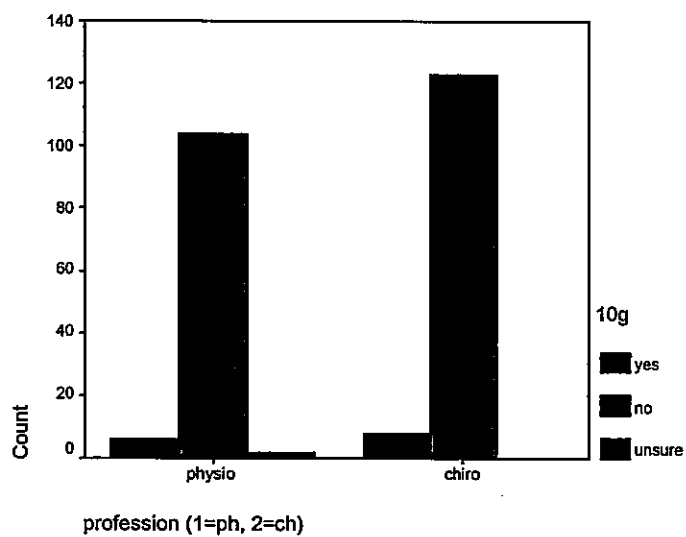
**Figure 2.1**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that have working relationships with osteopaths.**



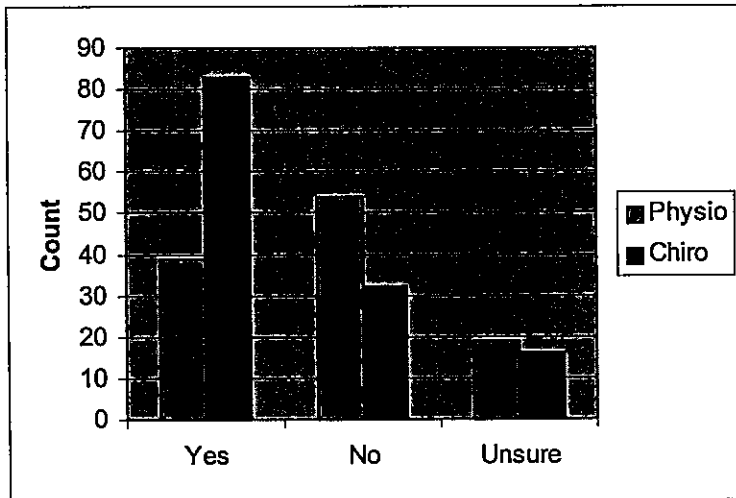
**Figure 2.2.**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that work with an osteopath/s in their place of employment.**



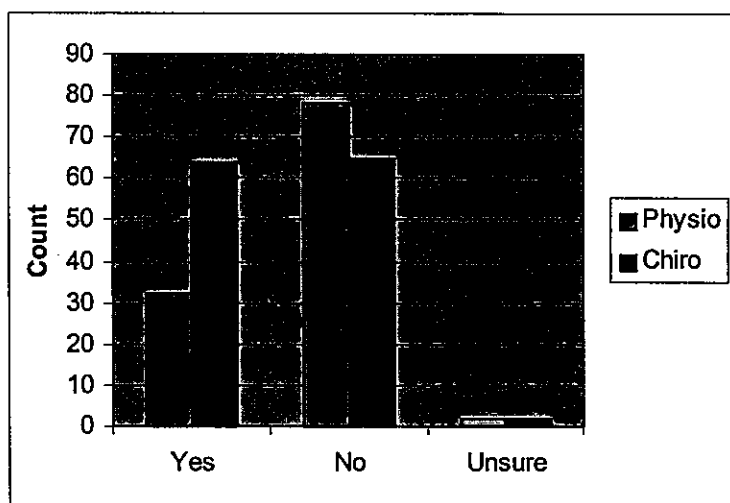
**Figure 3.**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that would refer a patient/s to an osteopath.**



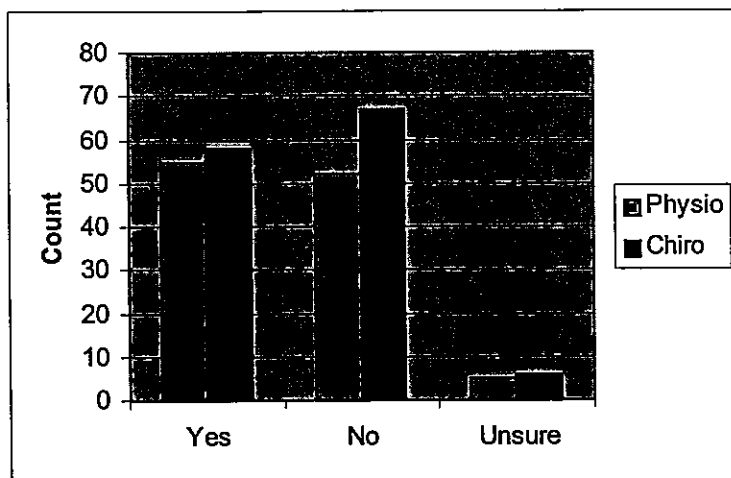
**Figure 4.**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that had previously referred a patient/s to an osteopath.**



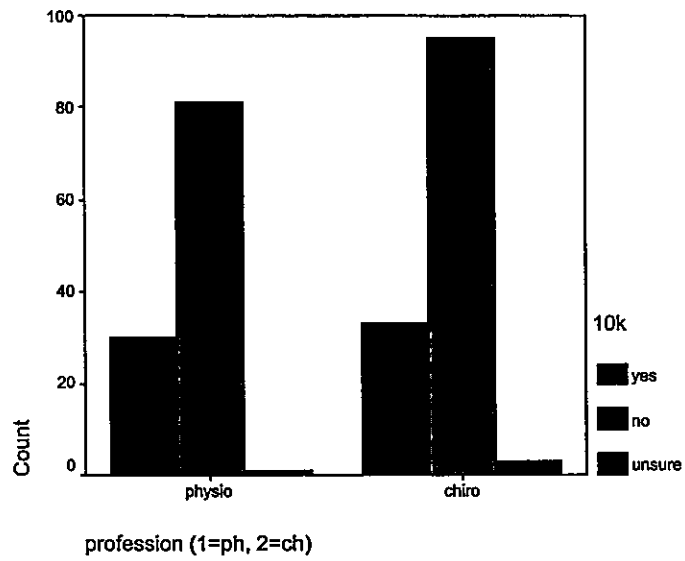
**Figure 5.**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that have treated a patient in conjunction with an osteopath.**



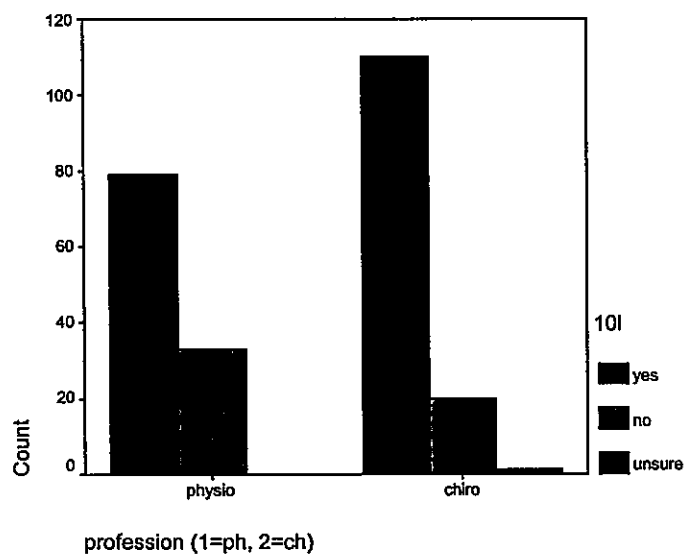
**Figure 6.**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that communicate with osteopaths within their scope of practice.**



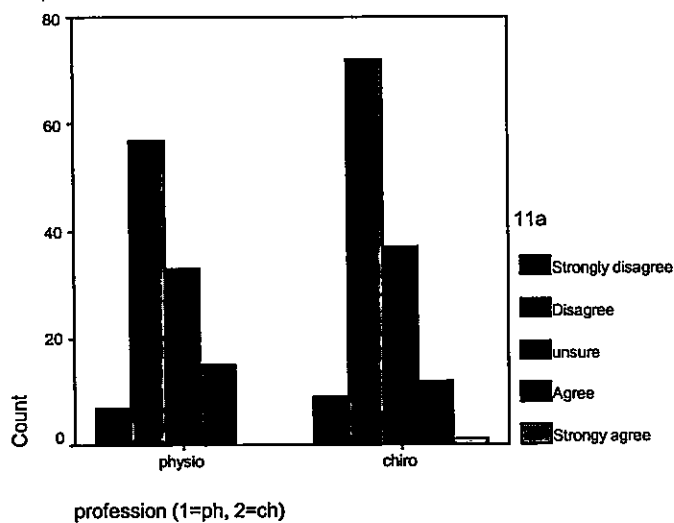
**Figure 7.**

**Number of physiotherapists and chiropractors that have working relationships with complementary or alternative practitioners other than osteopaths.**



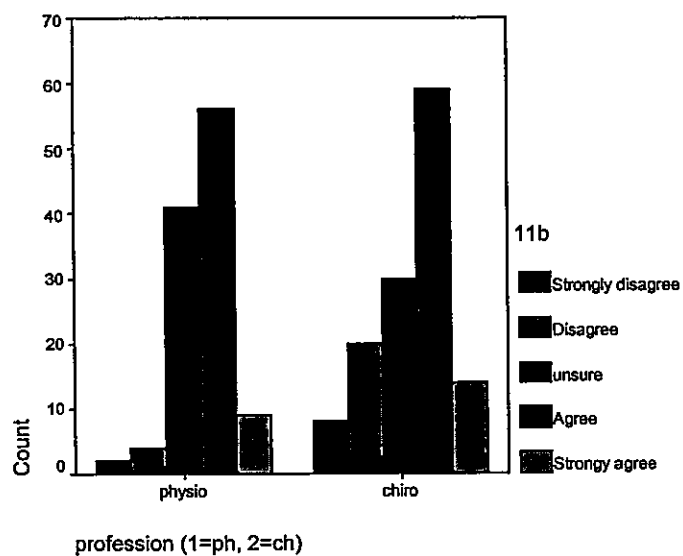
**Figure 8.**

**Physiotherapists' and chiropractors' opinions on osteopathy's status within the orthodox medical system**



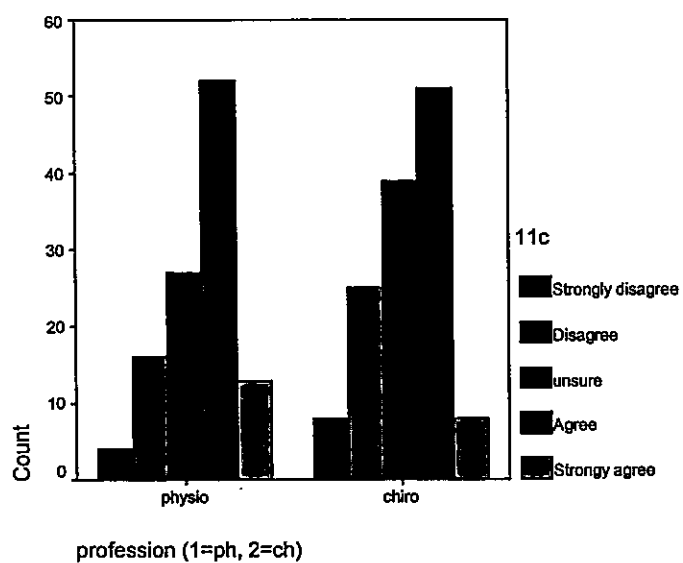
**Figure 9.**

**Physiotherapists' and chiropractors' opinions on osteopathy's status within the complementary and alternative health field**



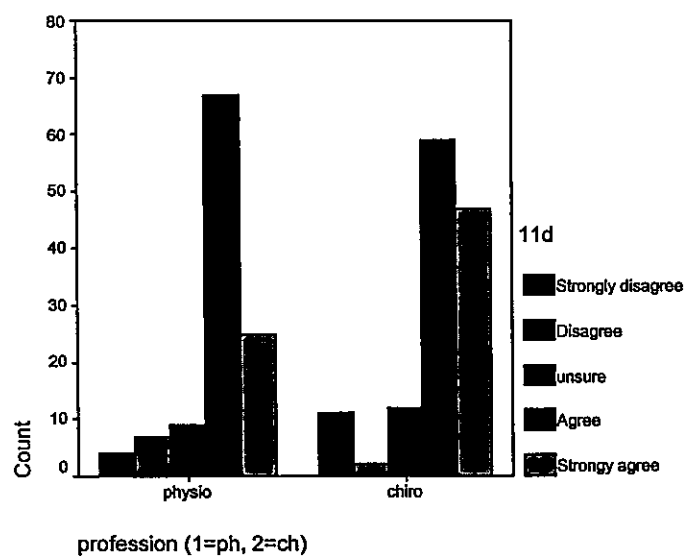
**Figure 10.**

**Physiotherapists' and chiropractors' interest in learning more about the osteopathic profession.**



**Figure 11.**

**Physiotherapists' and chiropractors' opinions on the need for improvement of the relationships between osteopathy, physiotherapy and chiropractic.**



**Figure 12.**

**Physiotherapists' and chiropractors' opinions on the need for communication when treating a patient in conjunction with an osteopath.**

