

## The vertebral spine as the human axis organ, physiological background and pathophysiological disturbances

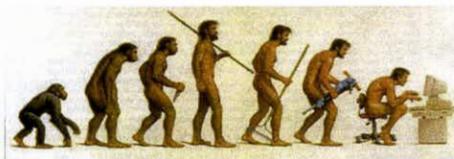
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## Introduction



Evolution from „Homo erectus“ to „Homo sedens“

Die Aufrichtung und Entwicklung des Menschen vom "Homo erectus" zum "Homo sedens".

**Vertebral column**  
term of the description period of  
anatomy

**Human axis organ**  
central organ of the human body

## Human axis organ I Functions

- Carrying the human head with brain and all important sensory organs
- Carrying the human body
- Responsible for movements of the head in all dimensions
- Fixation of shoulder girdle and the upper extremities
- Fixation of pelvis with the lower limbs
- Fixation of inner organs:
  - chest with cardio-respiratory organs
  - abdominal organs

**Human axis organ II**  
Regulation for posture and turning movements  
midbrain-pontine centre

- Adaptation of the human body in the gravity field
- Basis for all movements of the human body in the gravity field
- Readaptation of the body position by the postural and turning reflexes due to the vestibular apparatus and the receptors of cervical spine, lumbar and thoracic spine

## Phylogenetic development of the axis organ, the vertebral column

- Tunicata, external skeleton
- Development of Chorda dorsalis (amphioxus)
- Development of cartilage fish
- Development of the vertebral column
  - Horizontal position of the vertebral column
    - bone fish, amphibians, reptiles
      - arch bridge construction, partial developed
    - terrestrial tetrapods (mammals, aquatile mammals)
      - arch bridge construction, full developed
  - Vertical position of the vertebral column
    - human being
      - lattice tower construction

## Tunicata, insects, echinoderms



Abb. 1. Tunicate (Phallusia pilifera).



Abb. 2. Insect exuviae (empty skeletons) (Carabus hypoleucus).

- External skeleton

- Protozoa
- Annelida
- Mollusca
- Insects
- Echinoderms

- Muscles, tendons, inner organs are inside the skeleton

## Tetrapods arch bridge construction

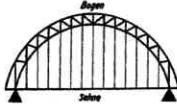


Abb. 6. Schema des Konstruktionsprinzips der Säugetierwirbelsäule. Nach STUPPEN.

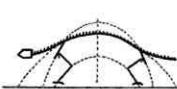


Abb. 4. Schema der Wirbelsäule eines primitiven Singtiers. Nach BOGEN.

- Bow consists of two parts: upper belt and lower belt

- Upper belt: vertebral arch, spine of vertebra, ligament, back muscles
- Lower belt: vertebral body, vertebral disc, ligament, short and long tendons, muscles

- bow string: cranial fixed by the ribs (chest), caudal fixed by abdominal muscles

## Tetrapods scheme of the arch bridge construction

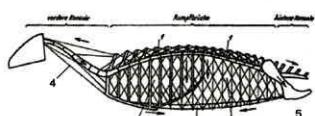


Abb. 7. Schema des Konstruktionsprinzips der Wirbelsäule bei Vierfüllern: 1. Wirbelsäule in Form einer flachen Kyphose; 2. Scheibe in Form der langen ventralen Rumpfplatte; 3. Querverstrengelung in Form der Rippen und schrägen Rumpfsepten.

- Flat kyphosis of spine (1)
- Bow string long ventral trunk muscles (2)
- Ribs (chest) and diagonal trunk muscles (3)
- Anterior console (4)
- Posterior console (5)

## Vertebral column in tetrapods

- Thoracic and lumbar spine
  - Fixation of the extremities for standing and locomotion
  - Support in jumping
  - Fixation of ribs and the diaphragm for respiration
  - Fixation of inner organs
- Cervical spine
  - Carrying the head with brain, sensory organs including vestibular apparatus
  - Responsible for free movement of the head
  - Receptors for gravity (neck muscles, tendons, cervical joints)
- Tail, used for balance
  - special motion receptors
- Balance, continuous regulated by postural and turning reflexes of the midbrain centres

## Tetrapods

Spine maximal integrated in the running movement, galloping dog - high speed possible

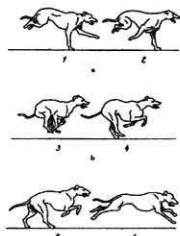


Abb. 8a - c. Bewegungszyklus eines galoppierenden Hundes mit maximaler Beteiligung der Wirbelsäule.

## Tetrapods

big herbivores  
spine serves fixation of the four extremities for standing and locomotion

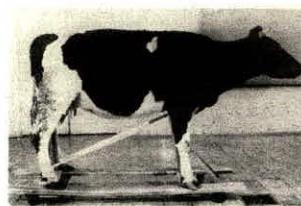
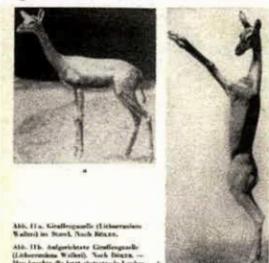


Abb. 9. Ausgestopfte Kuh. Das Präparat zeigt, daß die Bogenwirbelsäule auch nach dem Tode noch tragfähig ist.

**'Great' vertebrates  
tetrapod and bipeds in normal gravity**



**Vertebral column  
changement in special biotops  
passager lordosis in the lumbar region**



Lithocranum Walleri  
a) Arch bridge construction  
b) Lordosis during feeding

**Vertebral column in special  
situations**

kangaroo in defence state, lumbar lordosis



Abb. 10. Känguru mit Lordosbildung. Nach Höken.

**Lift-grasp-climbing position  
neck and lumbar lordosis  
development of dome construction of vertebral spine**

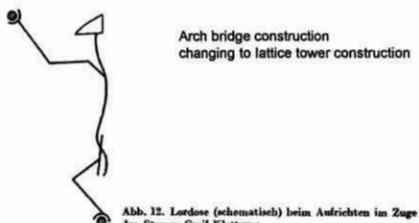
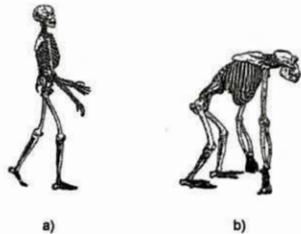


Abb. 12. Lordose (schematisch) beim Aufrichten im Zuge des Stemm-Grind-Kletterns.

**Lattice tower position**



- a) Human: lattice tower position
- b) Gorilla: lattice tower position, rest of vault bridge construction

**Homo erectus, lattice tower position  
dome function of the vertebrates**



Cervical lordosis  
thoracic kyphosis  
thoracic-lumbar lordosis  
fixed kyphosis of sacrum

"The design" of the human vertebral column is uncompleted, Koch 1964

## Special function of cervical spine turning movements in 3 dim. Development of the Atlas-Axis-system

Three steps:

1. development of 2 condyls on os occipitale (amphibias),
2. development of a second level, the atlas-axis-joint, rebuilding of dens by loss of the first disc (tetrapods),
3. special axis-dens-system, great autonomy, but highly vulnerable (man)

## Atlas, the titan giant

„Who is carrying“

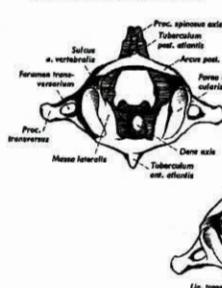
Son of Lapetos and of the okeanide Klymene



Carrying the globe

## Atlas-Axis-system, different positions

Atlas and Axis, cranial view



Atlas and Axis, view from dorsolateral



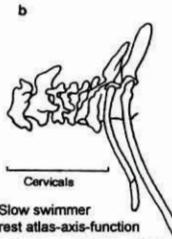
Turned atlas, fixed dens axis

## Dens-axis construction

Involution in the aqua re-adapted mammals



Quick swimmer  
synostosis, cerv. spine



Slow swimmer  
rest atlas-axis-function

Free motion of cervical spine of the terrestic mammals lost in aqua-re-adapted mammals  
Only restricted movement possible

Abb. 4a,b. Seitliche Ansicht der HWS von a) Delphinus delphis (schneller Hochseeschwimmer)  
b) Platypus gangeticus (langsamter Flussbewohner) (Nach Pilleri)

## Vulnerability of the human vertebral spine incompleted development of lattice tower position, high vulnerability of axis-dens-system

- overloaded due to unphysiological position (industrial life), typical symptoms of cervical spine and lumbar region (Mumenthaler, Schliack)
- psychological factors, influencing regional dysfunction of vertebral spine, mainly upper part
- motion trauma of cervical spine (whiplash injury), mostly including the other parts of vertebral spine (typical acute symptoms, sometimes long-lasting dysfunction, sometimes defect states)

## Cervicogenic headache (tension headache) Symptomatology

- Pressure headache, from neck to occipital, mostly to the forehead, both sides, seldom one side,
- Helm-feeling, sometimes ring-shaped feeling
- Pressure feeling in the orbita
- Increase of headaches during coughing, unpleasant position of head and body, during fever state
- Starting possible due to external influence local cooling, trauma of vertebral spine, etc.
- Additional symptoms:
  - pain in C2 with dysesthesia
  - pseudo-trigeminal pain
  - atypical face pain

## Cervicogenic headache

- Neurological findings
  - Dysesthesia on scalp, one side, both sides
  - Dysesthesia in C2 (sometimes)
  - Dysesthesia in trigeminal area (sometimes)
    - first branch or all branches, one side, both sides
  - Pressure pain occipital, one side, both sides
- Neuro-orthopaedic findings
  - blockage occipital/C1, C1/2
  - tensed region upper neck part
  - pressure pain paraspinal upper cervical spine
  - stretch-position of cervical spine
  - dysfunction of other vertebral spine

## Cervicogenic headache Differential diagnosis (I)

- Occipital neuralgia, (over diagnosed, Mummenthaler, 1970)
  - differentiation to cervicogenic headache clinically not possible
    - Insertiontendinosis of neck muscles
    - local zones of hyperalgesia
    - often disturbances of occipital joints
- Tension headache, real form
  - differentiation to vertebragenic headache clinically not possible
  - diagnosis only acceptable:
    - no signs of cervico-occipital irritation
    - no signs of cervical irritation
    - no effect after special vertebral treatment
    - psychic irritation

## Cervicogenic headache Differential diagnosis (II) Vasomotoric headache

- Migraine cervicale (old terminology)
- Migraine (different forms)
- Cluster headache
  - Erythropsopalgia = Horton neuralgia
  - Chronic paroxysmal Hemicrania (CPH)
  - Hemicrania continua (HC)
- Rare vasomotoric headache
  - Ice cream headache
  - coughing headache
  - Carotidodynina

## Upper cervical syndrome

- Combined symptoms
  - Cervicogenic headache
  - Cervicalgia
  - Migraine cervicale (old terminology)
  - Cervicogenic dizziness
    - attacks of vertigo, spontaneous or due to quick head movement
- in addition:
  - middle and lower cervicale syndrome
  - cervico-dorsalgia, dorsalgia, lumbalgia
  - combination with pseudo-radicular symptoms

## Cervicogenic headache Examination program

- Neurological examination
- Manual examination, functional state of vertebral spine, especially cervical spine
- Examination of malstereotypias of body position and body movement
- X-ray of cervical spine with functional radiogram
- X-ray of the additional vertebral spine
- Cervical MRI

## X-ray cervical spine female patient, 47<sup>a</sup> diagnosis: cervicogenic headache



a) Retroflexion, blockage  
upper part, dysbalance  
occipito-atlanto-axial joint

b) Anteroflexion, blockage  
in upper part and lower  
part of cervical spine

**Cervical MRI**  
female patient, 47<sup>a</sup>  
diagnosis: cervicogenic headache

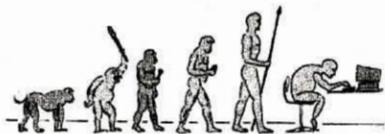


Stretch-position of cervical spine, mostly upper part, multisegmental disc protrusion, incipient vertebrostenosis C5/C6

**Cervicogenic headache**  
**Therapy program**

- Deblockage of blocked cervical spine motion segments, using manual therapeutic methods, mainly postisometric relaxation (Lewit)
- Physio-therapy program for correction of malposition and malstereotypias
- Physio-therapy program for correction of insufficient neck muscles and vertebral muscles
- Local infiltration of tensed muscle areas, tendomyogelosis, etc.,  
Xyloneural  
"Tilscher scheme"
- Drug treatment  
Muscle relaxantia, analgetica, etc.

**From tetrapods to homo sedens**  
high vulnerability of the cervical spine  
to direct impacts and to  
malfunction due to the industrial life



Die Aufrichtung und Entwicklung des Menschen vom "Homo erectus" zum "Homo sedens".

#### >>> POSTER PRESENTATIONS / POSTEROVÉ PRZENITACE

1. A. Krobot, J. Macháč, D. Horák (Olomouc)  
Kontingenční výzkum „arcta flex“ a jeho konference k ICP odborného spolkového semináře
2. A. Laskotová (Vysoké Mýto)  
Symetrická technika myofasikální terapie a možnosti lyfoterapie v komplexní terapii popáleninového traumatu
3. A. Perian (Bratislava)  
Myoamnécká komprezivní rekonvalescence a rehabilitace hrdla a krku. Case Report.

#### >>> PARTICIPATING COMPANIES / ZUČASTNĚNÉ FIRMY

BTL-zdravotnická technika, a.s.  
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IBI s.r.o.  
MADISSON s.r.o.  
Perabell, s.r.o.  
PRO-MED.CS Praha a.s.  
RESI Třeboní spol.s.r.o.  
Roman Rousek, výroba zdravotnických lehátek a doplňků

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the Society of Myofascial Medicine  
of the Czech Medical Association J. C. Parékya,  
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and

the Society of Myofascial Medicine  
of the Slovak Medical Association,  
member of the International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine (FIMM)

on

#### >>> A Complex Approach to the Problem of Disturbed Function of the Motor System <<<



>>> October 12 – 14, 2006  
In the Regional Centre Olomouc <<<

#### PROGRAMME



SkMA



>>> FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006

CHAIRS: K. LEWIT, V. TOŠNEROVÁ, L. SORFOVÁ

- 09.00-09.20 Vlasta Tošnerová (Czech Republic), Lubica Šorfová (Slovak Republic); Welcome to Olomouc
- 09.20-09.40 Richard Ellis (United Kingdom): Is Professor Lewit cost-effective? (Vyplatí se Prof. Lewit?)
- 09.40-09.50 Alena Kobesová (Czech Republic), Craig Morris (USA); Tribute to Prof. Lewit and Prof. Janda (Na počest Prof. Lewita a Prof. Jandy)
- 09.50-10.15 Karel Lewit (Czech Republic): 50 let rehabilitacičního lékařství (Rehabilitation doctor for 50 years); discussion and congratulation
- 10:15-10.45 coffee break
- CHAIR: J. JANDOVÁ, J. VÄCHER
- 11.15-11.35 Bernard Tiefen (Switzerland): International manual medicine yesterday and tomorrow (Mezinárodní manuální medicína včera a dnes)
- 11.35-11.55 Mike Hutton (United Kingdom): The application of complexity theory to soft tissue dysfunction (Aplikace teorie komplexnosti na dysfunkci měkkých tkání)
- 11.55-12.15 Jacob Batijn (The Netherlands): Reproducibility studies in manual/musculoskeletal medicine: how necessary are they? (Studies reproducitelnosti v manuální myoskeletální medicíně: do jaké míry jsou nutné?)
- 12.15-12.45 discussion
- 12.45-13.45 lunch break
- CHAIR: P. KOŘÍK, J. ROUBALOVÁ
- 13.45-14.05 Pavel Kořík (Czech Republic): Spondylosistéza: diagnostika a terapie (Spondylosistéza: diagnosis and therapy)
- 14.05-14.25 Craig Morris (USA): LumboPain motor control: updates in research and clinical practice (Lumbopánevní řízení pohybu: novinky ve výzkumu a klinické praxi)
- 14.25-14.45 Franz Gerstenbrand, Walter Struhal (Austria): The vertebral spine as the human axis organ: physiological background and its pathophysiological disturbances (Pátek jako osový lidský orgán: fyziologický background a jeho patofyziologické poruchy)
- 14.45-15.15 discussion
- 15.15-15.45 coffee break
- CHAIRS: A. ŠNOPLOVÁ, Š. PODNÁR
- 15.45-16.05 Beat Dejung (Switzerland): Myofascial pain conceptions will help manual medicine to survive (Koncepty myofasciální bolesti pomohou manuální medicíně přežít)
- 16.05-16.25 Meinhard Berger (Austria): Whiplash injury – myoskeletal lesion or myth? (Whiplash Injury – myoskeletal injury or myth?)
- 16.25-16.45 Neil Osborne (United Kingdom): Whiplash: I can see it in your eyes (Whiplash injury: vidím to ve vašich očích)
- 16.45-17.05 Clayton Skaggs (USA): Masticatory muscle function: new considerations in neck and jaw rehabilitation (Funkce žvýkačního svalu: nové úvahy o rehabilitaci krku a kelistů)
- 17.05-17.35 discussion
- 19.30-22.00 Welcome party / Společenský večer

>>> SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006

CHAIRS: A. KÖBESOVÁ, J. JANDOVÁ

- 09.00-09.20 Mark Webster (United Kingdom): The art of assessment & therapeutic manual skills – a critical update (Umění mimořádného vyšetření a terapeutických dovedností – kritická aktualizace)
- 09.20-09.30 Jesper Andersen (Denmark): Influence of the Prague School of thought on chiropractors in Denmark and some visions (Vliv myšlení pražské školy na chiropraktiku v Dánsku, některé vize)
- 09.30-09.50 Niels Grunnet-Nilsson (Denmark): Physical treatments of chronic headache – a Cochrane review of the evidence (Fyzikální léčba chronické bolesti hlavy – přehled prokazatelného Cochraneho datového)
- 09.50-10.10 Hans van Helvoirt (The Netherlands): Mechanical diagnostics and therapy in manual medicine (Mechanická diagnostika a terapie v manipulační medicíně)
- 10.10-10.30 Clayton Skaggs (USA): A Functional model for treating musculoskeletal pain in pregnancy (Funkční model pro léčbu muskuloskeletálních bolestí v těhotenství)
- 10.30-11.00 discussion
- 11.00-11.30 coffee break
- CHAIR: R. VÉLE, B. PUUKSA
- 11.30-11.50 Helena Heimachová (Austria): About the feet again: More about stability of the feet (Znovu o chodidle. Něco navíc o stabilitě chodidla)
- 11.50-12.10 Magdalena Lepšková, Karel Lewit (Czech Republic): Role chodidla ve stabilizačním systému (Role of the feet for the stabilizing system)
- 12.10-12.30 František Véle (Czech Republic): Role nervového systému v motorice člověka (The importance of the nervous system for motor action)
- 12.30-13.00 discussion
- 13.00-14.00 lunch break
- CHAIR: V. TOŠNEROVÁ, E. JANÍKOVÁ
- 14.00-14.15 A. Lahme (Germany): Overuse problems of the hand and wrist with musicians (Problematika přetížení ruky a zápěstí u hudebníků)
- 14.15-14.25 E. Ďurišová, E. Reková, P. Flexa, J. Žíra (Slovak Republic): Ovlivňující rizikové faktory osteoporózy a funkčná patológia (Risk factors in osteoporosis and its functional pathology)
- 14.25-14.35 L. Matič, K. Novotná (Czech Republic): Vliv léčebné télovýchovy ve vodě na léčbu bolestivých stavů ramenního kloubu (Influence of the hydrokinésotherapy on treatment of the painful shoulder)
- 14.35-15.00 discussion
- Closing of the conference