

March 13, 1994

This is an open letter to several of my dearest friends in the Cranial Academy.

For several years I have been troubled by an inconsistency in our teaching of Cranial techniques and what we actually do when we administer a Cranial treatment. I am referring to our insistence on a very light, gentle contact upon the Cranium, no pressure of the contacting fingers. Yet, in my experience, having been treated by many of you, the students of Dr. Sutherland, you do use considerable pressure and you do manually move the bony mechanism in the direction of the strain pattern.

Dr. Sutherland taught that the operator should move the bony mechanism to the point of "BALANCED MEMBRANEOUS TENSION" I wish to emphasize the word TENSION. My experience of having Dr. Sutherland treat my Cranium on numerous occasions he used considerable force with a very firm contact moving the mechanism to the point where the membranes were put on tension in the direction of the strain pattern. The operator then became aware of a pounding, tugging sensation within the Cranium. This pounding, tugging sensation has a rate of about once every second for a period of time. Then the rate will slow down until it suddenly stops ("the still point"). This still point will last for a fraction of a second to several seconds then suddenly the entire skull will release and expand for another period of time which may last for five to ten seconds. Then the CRI will return in a very gentle, soft rhythm at the normal rate of once every five seconds or twelve times a minute. This indicates that the mechanism has completed its correction.

In my opinion it is at the point where the mechanism starts to expand that the operator releases his controlled pressure of holding the strain pattern under TENSION and allows it to assume its new corrected pattern.

I remember a case of an infant with a parallelogram ^{type} birth molding deformity which I was treating using Condylar Decompression technique and feeling that the mechanism was beginning to respond when Dr. Sutherland came up behind me, moved my hands to a vault contact then placed his hands on my hands and forcefully twisted the baby's skull in the direction of the strain pattern. His pressure on my hands and on the baby's skull was at least 20 to 25 pounds. Then suddenly he threw his hands off and asked if I had felt the membranes throw his hands off. I had to admit that I did not. The result of his treatment was complete correction of the parallelogram deformity.

I am using this example to emphasize Dr. Sutherland's terminology of "BALANCED MEMBRANEOUS TENSION".

I believe that Dr. Sutherland's "BALANCED LIGAMENTOUS TENSION" also applies to the indirect technique for the Musculo-skeletal system.

I would greatly appreciate your comments on this subject and correct me if you think I am wrong.

Fraternally Yours,

Thomas F. Schooley D.O. F.A.A.O.
417. East Fox Den Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37922