

Andresen T, Bahr C, Ciranna-Raab C. Efficacy of osteopathy and other manual treatment approaches for malocclusion. A systematic review of evidence. International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine 2013;16(2): 99e113

This systematic review aimed to examine the evidence for the efficacy of osteopathy and other forms of manual intervention in the management of malocclusion. The stages of the review are well described including all of the databases searched, and the search terms employed. A small number of studies were expected so the search terms used were quite expansive. A wide range of databases were searched in addition to non-indexed osteopathic journals. Studies identified from the search were categorised according Sackett's levels of evidence, and then assessed using Downs and Black's quality checklist designed for healthcare interventions.

Only 30 studies met the stated inclusion criteria but 13 of these were experts' opinions alone and contained little evidence. The remaining 17 studies included various research designs with varying degrees of methodological quality; most of the studies were regarded as poor quality after assessment with Downs and Black's quality assessment tool.

A small number of studies reported some changes in malocclusion associated with therapeutic approaches, but the review highlighted the need for more studies in this area with much greater methodological quality.