

In response to: Peter Eisler and Barbara Hansen's "Under the Knife 'for nothing'," (USA Today, 06.20.2013)

Dear Editor:

In reading the special report by Peter Eisler and Barbara Hansen, "Under the knife 'for nothing'" (USA Today, June 2013), I commend your coverage and treatment of this important subject which will help to guide both patients and physicians. Effective communications to expand awareness are sorely needed, and our entire healthcare system will benefit.

To advance this education, the [Foundation for Chiropractic Progress](#) (F4CP) recently issued the well-documented report, [A Safer Approach to Long-term Relief from Back Pain](#). People need to be aware of their options for non-invasive approaches, such as chiropractic care, prior to undergoing surgery.

In fact, the [University of Pittsburgh Medical Center \(UPMC\) Health Plan](#) has mandated that their patients explore evidence-based alternatives prior to surgical consideration. UPMC patients are required to have tried and failed a three-month course of conservative management, which includes physical therapy, chiropractic care and medication.

Today, healthcare has become sick care, with a focus on unnecessary procedures that put patients at risk -- often resulting in tragic outcomes. Thanks to your article, this truth has been exposed, and hopefully, patients will be empowered to consider other options.

Thank you,

Kent S. Greenawalt
Chairman, F4CP