

[☰ Outline](#)[Purchase](#)[Export](#)

## Journal of Osteopathic Medicine

Volume 6, Issue 2, October 2003, Pages 74-84

Review

### A review of the physiology of cranial osteopathy

DO, MSc Andrew Ferguson

[Show more](#)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1443-8461\(03\)80017-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1443-8461(03)80017-5)

[Get rights and content](#)

#### Abstract

The models generally used to explain the practice of cranial osteopathy have not been supported by reliable research. This paper reviews and explores the relevant physiology and finds much to advance knowledge in this field. Arterial vasomotor waves have a frequency similar to reports of cranial rhythmic impulses; these are controlled by the sympathetic nervous system. Thermoregulation can reverse venous flow through emissary veins of the skull. Cerebrospinal fluid is circulated by arterial pulsations and is partially drained via the cribiform plate into nasal and cervical lymphatics. A model for the practice of cranial osteopathy based on well-researched physiology is proposed, and some clinical implications outlined. Some reasons for poor interobserver agreement in palpatory studies are discussed. This paper should provide a basis for informed research in this subject in the future.



[Previous article](#)

#### Key Words

cranial; osteopathy; field  
cerebrospinal fluid

**Register to receive personalized recommendations  
based on your recent signed-in activity**

[Register now](#)

Choose an option to locate/access this article:

Check if you have access through your login credentials or your institution.

Check Access

or

Purchase

or

> [Check for this article elsewhere](#)

[Recommended articles](#)

Citing articles (0)

Copyright © 2003 Published by Elsevier Ltd

---

[About ScienceDirect](#)

[Remote access](#)

[Shopping cart](#)

[Contact and support](#)

[Terms and conditions](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Cookies are used by this site. For more information, visit the [cookies page](#).

Copyright © 2018 Elsevier B.V. or its licensors or contributors. ScienceDirect® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.