

# Los Angeles-area chiropractor offers hope for scoliosis patients

Chiropractors all over Los Angeles no doubt have faced frustrating cases of scoliosis in the past. For many practicing physicians, it's a problem that has no easy answer, especially when that answer includes having the patient wear an uncomfortable and intrusive brace.

Enter Ron Marinaro. The founder and director of the Chiropractic Treatment Center in Studio City, Marinaro has become an advocate and an educator for new, less invasive treatments of this potentially debilitating disease.

The most recent development is the SpineCor brace, which allows patients to move as they naturally would without the bulk of the solid braces of the past. It's an issue that is particularly important because young children — particularly girls — are most prone to the condition.

"It's always been my desire to try and fix scoliosis," says Marinaro. "Eighty percent of the time, you see it in young girls where the spine goes crooked.

Being from a family of chiropractors, I grew up thinking I was going to find a cure for scoliosis. Well, that wasn't the case, until I came across a soft brace

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where kids can continue with whatever exercises or activities they are into."

While Marinaro is not touting this new brace as a cure for scoliosis, for individuals living with scoliosis, it's a welcome alternative.

Because scoliosis, which is defined as an unhealthy curvature of a normally straight spine, affects 12 million people worldwide — many of whom are young gymnasts — Marinaro felt it especially

important to dedicate his practice to helping those restrained in a hard brace to get back to their normal lives.

"Usually by the age of nine it gets to a point where you might be able to detect it," he says. "So we try slowing it down and in some cases reversing it. If you went to a surgeon, they'd put a hard brace on you, but if you go to somebody who is into a softer brace, the majority of the treatment or approach when you have a small degree curve is let's wait and see if it's going to progress to the point of surgery."

This type of less invasive yet monitored approach is exactly what Marinaro promotes to other chiropractors and potential clients. As part of his lifelong mission, he often travels around Southern California educating and promoting this new, potentially life-changing treatment.

"My father practiced in New York, but I came here and liked the weather and just fell in love with California," adds Marinaro. "I run a referral-only practice, and hired associates to work with patients every day, so I can dedicate my time to working with scoliosis patients."



**Chiropractic Treatment Center director Ron Marinaro demonstrates the SpineCor brace, which helps scoliosis patients move as they naturally would without the bulk of solid, cumbersome braces of the past.**