

The spine is held in front, first by the body's intrinsic weight and by a similar system of structures as the muscles of the back and act the same. These muscles are the **TWO RECTI ABDOMINALIS** which arise from the crest of the pubes and the ligaments covering the symphysis and from there extend upward at each side of the linea alba to be inserted into the cartilage of the 5th, 6th and 7th ribs close to the sternum and thereby hold the **STERNUM**, a plate of bone about 6 inches long, then this muscle is firmly connected to the pubes establishing guy-ropes from the pubes to the episternal notch. From there to the mastoid process of the temporal bone, in front, the guy-ropes are completed by the two **STERNO-CLEIDO-MASTOID** muscles which originate from the superior angle of the sternum, the proximal end of the clavicle into the anterior margin of the mastoid process; action, to depress the head, these to counteract the action of the Trachleo-mastoid behind. From this, one can see that the head and the pelvis are firmly connected by four muscular bands, two behind and two in front holding the spine in an erect position between them and still permitting all the freedom of motion necessary to the parts involved through the contractility of the muscles when acting in perfect harmony with one and another; but when co-ordination does not exist, as in the case of paralysis or atrophy of any of these muscular guy-ropes, the flexible column called the spine, between them, is bound to assume curvatures, the same as any flexible flag-pole would assume if one or two of its guy-ropes would get slack and the others tight, it would bow and the belly of the pole would be towards the slack ropes, and no amount of hammering could straighten that curvature until the slack ropes were retightened.

The same conditions exactly would take place in a living human spine if some of its muscular guy-ropes would atrophy and become relaxed, with the addition of another curvature or two through adaptation, or as a matter of compensation, as the natural tendency of man is to remain erect by equalizing the weight on all sides. So now, in a case of that kind, one can readily see how futile it would be to potter with the curvature as such, until the cause had been determined and rectified, such cause being the prolapsed muscles. But these prolapsed muscles must also have a