

The language our hands speak

Cite: Taglio H. The language our hands speak. Asia-Pac Chiropr J. 2026;7.2.
www.apcj.site/TaglioHands

Manus prompt:

Provide a one paragraph summary of Hilary Taglio's paper 'The language our hands speak' using professional clinical language and provide 3 multi-choice quiz questions with answers

Manus response:

In *The Language Our Hands Speak*, Hilary Taglio presents chiropractic adjustment as both a psychomotor clinical skill and a form of nonverbal therapeutic communication shaped by mentorship, accumulated practice, patient encounters, and professional character. Drawing on the legacy of Dr Gonstead and the clinicians who transmitted his methods, Taglio argues that practitioners develop embodied knowledge expressed through the specificity, confidence, gentleness, and attentiveness of their touch. Patients may perceive these qualities before an adjustment is delivered, interpreting the clinician's hands as signals of safety, trustworthiness, presence, or, conversely, haste, uncertainty, and aggression. The paper therefore frames technical competence as inseparable from reflective practice, humility, compassion, integrity, and continued clinical development, emphasising that both successful and challenging encounters contribute to evolving expertise. Ultimately, Taglio proposes that each clinician's distinctive approach retains the influence of teachers and predecessors while becoming individualised over time, allowing professional knowledge and values to persist through the patients and future practitioners affected by that care.

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is the central argument of the paper?

- A. Chiropractic competence is determined primarily by formal credentials.
- B. Manual technique develops independently of mentorship and personal character.
- C. A clinician's touch conveys embodied technical knowledge, experience, and professional character.
- D. Patients evaluate care only after observing long-term clinical outcomes.

Answer: C

2. According to Taglio, what may patients perceive through a practitioner's hands before an adjustment is delivered?

- A. The clinician's academic ranking and professional reputation.

- B. Signals of safety, confidence, attentiveness, and trustworthiness.
- C. A definitive diagnosis and expected prognosis.
- D. The precise number of years the clinician has practised.

Answer: B

3. Which activity best represents the paper's description of continued professional formation?

- A. Repeating established techniques without further reflection.
- B. Prioritising treatment speed over patient communication.
- C. Relying exclusively on inherited methods without adapting to clinical experience.
- D. Reviewing findings carefully, listening attentively, learning from outcomes, and refining technique with humility.

Answer: D