Anthropology and the physical presentation of Homo sapiens in the 21th century. Modern man and his posture.

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## Orthopedic Anthropology......??

 Never studied Anthropology,
but in "30 seconds" learned that anthropologists look at postures too!

Has the mean physical posture in present times a message to physicians and antropologists??



#### Spine 2008: Scientific proof of action in TLI







SPINE Volume 33, Number 7, pp 797–801 Forced lordosis on the thoracolumbar junction can correct frontal plane deformities

TLI gives an immediate optimisation of the posture

standing

supine

on fulcrum

TLI bracing concept : it works in Arnhem, why not everywhere?!!

With knowledge of Milan Roth I understand why it works!

- Lengthening the canal (stretch the cord)
- Reducing tension in the system
- restoring mobility of facets ( by backward opening)
- restore sagittal balance
- Activate muscle action





## I extrapolated the troubles I saw to society....

- Increase of bad postures in my practice after introduction of the Gameboy (Nintendo)
- I (re-)found the relationship sittingbad postures- backpain and stepped out of the orthopedic mainstream



Hughe resistance out of the academical world, but I knew this was a cultural problem......

### Yes, our culture can be in decline......

#### **Oswald Spengler:**

- The Decline of the West (1918, 1922)
- Man and his technique (1932,German)

#### Yuval Noah Harari:

- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind (2014)
- Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow (2016)
- 21 Lessons for the 21st Century (2018)



bourse Spergler



Will technical innovations destroy our health and future??

### Can phenotypes (all you are, all you can) change in an epidemic way? Yes, by culture itself!



1940

versus

2019



#### But it is not just "the food'





## It is civilization in all its aspects that changes external factors on genotype



Thousands and thousand of years.....







Only 100 years !!



### New technologies . They are great! But what do they do to our body?









#### We became Homo Sedens!

And sit mainly slumped and sloughed

### My focus on sitting (and bracing)

- 2005 Thonet published at the 150 year anniversary (of chair- massproduction) a booklet on the History of Sitting from an anthropologic view (Hajo Eickhoff)
- 2006 search in older (German) textbooks on Orthopedics: it is the sitting that affects our health by creating bad body-postures
  - +/\_ 1850 The invention of schoolfurniture: it was the first worldwide accepted product in "Ergonomics"







Sitting on chairs and our Health The mismatch between Nature and Culture in the growing period!

- Sitting on chairs is a modern time innovation for the masses (after 1900)
- Schoolobligation is new. They have to sit!
- Sitting transport is new
- All digital innovations, you use sitting, are new

You get a discongruency in Roth's concepted osteoneural growth relations! Nerves aren't stretched enough !!



Evolution : Biology and chairs: an unhappy combination

#### Orthopedics once started on this problem!







ANDRY (1741): The young bone of the spine will deform by sitting on chairs

But already Jan Amos Komenský, buried in NL, warned for too long sitting of children!



-lumpolec 2019

## Why did chairmakers not follow the anthromorphological changes in time??



### "Posture" and "Sitting" had to come together again in "screentime era"



The human body cannot reach 90 degrees between torso and upperleg without cantilevering the pelvis and spine in unhealthy positions





## Effect of prolonged sitting (slumped and sloughed) on a growing spine

- Discs under much too much compression TL anterior, lumbosacral posterior: herniated discs
- Cartilage under shearstresses: early degeneration
- Bone/ vertebrae will deform gradually (Wolff's Law): kyphosis, scoliosis.
- Motion units spine will stiffen up (contactures, ankylosis)
- Ribs and diaphragm in unphysiologic position: hindering ventilation





#### Posture and CNS in a reciprocal way connected by Roth's osteoneural growth relations 11 yr. Pain hipregio in horseriding







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# 21th century: will we be able to walk by ourselves at the end??

In accordance with Roth:

 Every deviation of our natural posture during growth means that all nervous tissue will be jeopardised internally inside the bony housing Still fast increasing incidence of:

- Back and neckpain
- Disc herniations
- Muscoloskeletal injuries
- >Osteoporosis
- Stenosis
- Neuropathias
- >ALS
- Parkinson
- >Alzheimer etc. etc. etc.

## What will anthropologists find about us in future excavations??

- Crooked spines, deformed knees
- A lot of screws in vertebrae
- A lot of metal artificial joints





#### BUT NO DISCS OR CARTILAGE, THE PRIMARY VICTIMS OF SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE



### Focus on our youth!

RIVM 2016:

- Dutch people are European "Champion in sitting"
- mean 8,6 hours a day
- Youth 12-20 yr: mean 10,4 hours
- Sedentary lifestyle youth responsible for chronic morbidity (Diabetes, cardiac problems, cancer)

#### The medical world lost its grip on global detoriation of primary health



## A fundamental other approach to "sitting" can save the human species a lot of trouble

- Sit as less as possible: stand up, walk, lay down
- Sit as less as possible in 90° with both legs
- Facilitate good posture of the torso
- Variation in all positions of hips, knees and ankles
- Go for active sitting
- Facilitates the torso into the same postures the standing person has ( as Leonarda da Vinci draw)







Leonardo: one leg bowed!

### We have to change habits and help our spines!! To save our future?!!

- Awareness young people parents: It is the way we use the new technology!
- Awareness and knowledge in recognising by schoolworkers
- Restoration classic schoolgymnastics
- Knowledge on posture and effective excersises by all physiotherapists
- Active sit- solutions



Let's save our childrens discs and cartilage: provide them healthy postures and future anthropologists will be surprised by the resilience of our species!

## Thank you!

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