

“NO MORE PAIN OR FURTHER TREATMENT SINCE.”

I met Patrick in the early nineties at a practice in Clapham where we both were working at the time.

Years ago, I had a fall and banged my jaw; this was ten years before I even noticed any real symptoms. Years later I developed a really bad clicking jaw and the worst problem was a severe pain in my shoulders like a hot knife being driven between my shoulder blades.

Around 1993/4, realising it might be related to my jaw, I went to one of the dentists at the surgery who suggested I talk to Patrick. He said I needed a splint and as I thought I had nothing to lose but everything to gain, I went for it. Patrick made me the splint and within four hours of putting it in I felt pain relief.

I realised that it was a long-term problem and that I could not stay in the splint forever so I went on to have scans in order to confirm what the problem was. The treatment of TMJ was all very new at that time and so I had to be referred to a maxillofacial specialist to be allowed facial scans on NHS. After I had the scans, a panel of around 20 specialists who were in the room were asked if they could see anything wrong with the jaw joints, they all said no. The Maxillofacial specialist then prescribed me anti-depressants for the problem.

Fortunately, Patrick had tutored me to read the MRI scans prior to my appointment and I had been told that this was likely to happen. I asked if I could take the scans away with me. In fact, on closer inspection, both discs within the joints were displaced. I ended up with surgery on both joints to reposition the discs. As a result, there was a gap between both sets of teeth that then had to be re-set with orthodontic work by Patrick.

I finished all treatment thirteen and a half years ago and I have had no more pain or further treatment since. I believe in Patrick's work to the extent that I now have patients whom I refer to him. -

Hayley Azopardi - Dental Therapist and Hygienist