

The Journal of the British Society for the Study of Craniomandibular Disorders (BSSCMD)

Issue No. 5 Summer 2016

# IN THIS ISSUE:

**MYOFUNCTION, SLEEP DISORDERS AND OSTEOPATHY SPECIAL EDITION!** 

Featuring -





**Caroline Penn** Osteopath

**Dental Surgeon** 



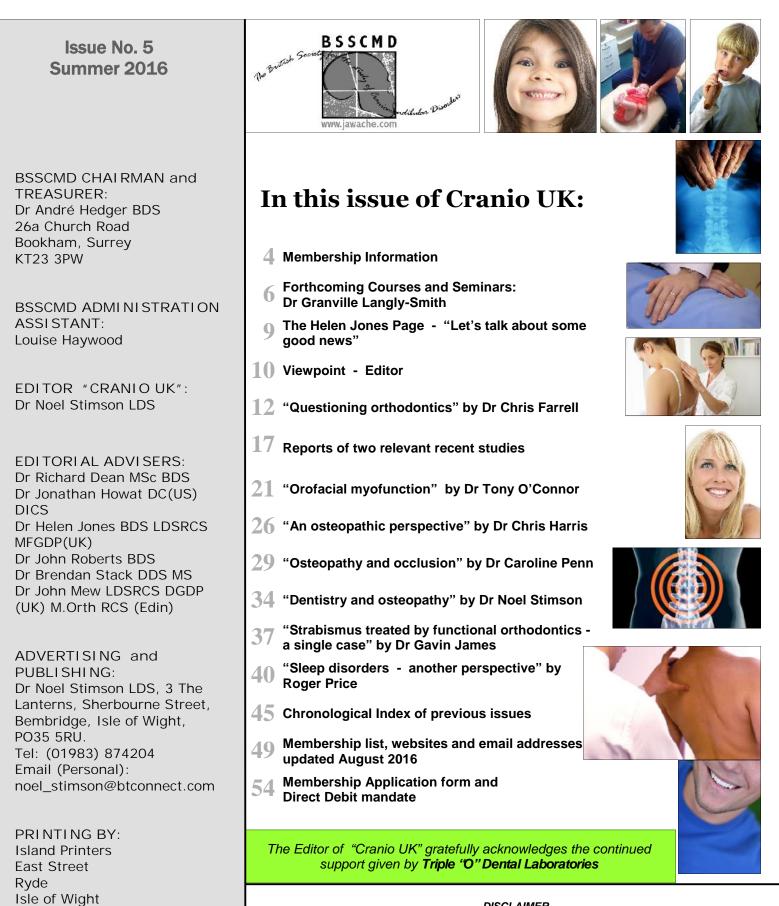
**Roger Price** Respiratory Physiologist



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# **Dentistry and the Cranio-Sacral System**

# Dr Granville Langly-Smith and Dr Catherine Crowe

(with Thomas Attlee DO, RCST)

# Saturday/Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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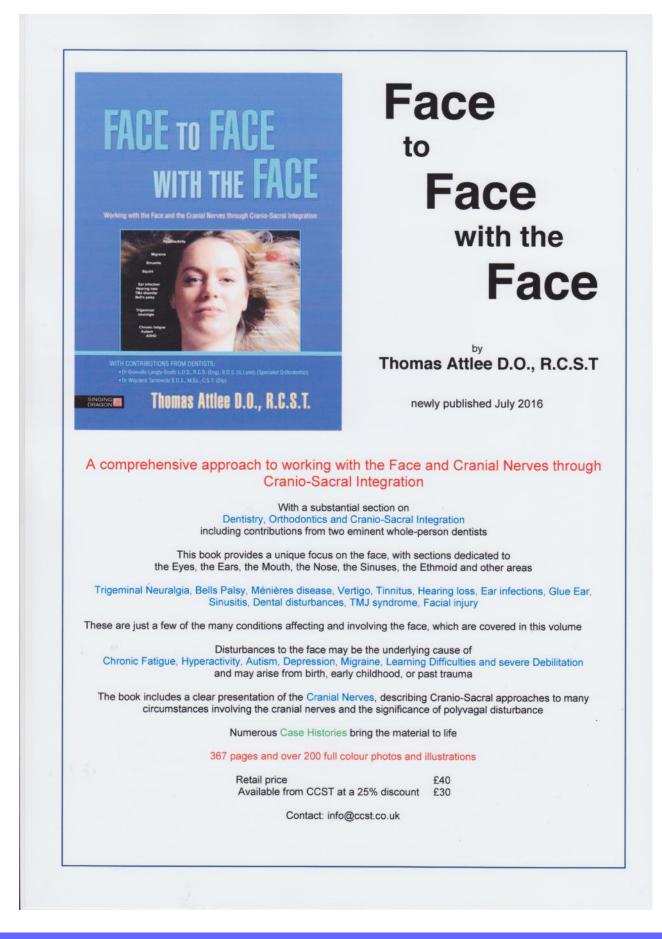
Granville Langly-Smith is one of those few Orthodontists who, not only understands the cranio-sacral system, but uses it himself as a matter of course with his dental and orthodontic patients. He has practised as a Dentist and Orthodontist for 30 years, integrating an understanding of whole-body mechanics and Cranio-Sacral Therapy into his practice.

With the help of slides from his vast library of case histories, he will explain the often complex interaction between dental malocclusions and the cranio-sacral system, and demonstrate how orthodontics integrated with cranio-sacral work can produce outstanding results in patients, appreciating the value of referral both ways. This will be a practical seminar, open to dentists, cranial osteopaths and cranio-sacral therapists, enabling an inspiring and informative interaction.

"Cranio-sacral therapy combined with good dentistry can be nothing less than awesome!"

Dr Dietricht Klinghardt

College of Cranio-Sacral Therapy			
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# **The Helen Jones Page** (www.connecting heads.com)

# Let's talk about some good news!



or a considerable number of years dentistry has been side-lined from medicine and practitioners have focused almost exclusively on structures within the oral cavity. However there are some signs that this may be about to change. The subject of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea is now appearing regularly on conference programmes and special hospital clinics for sleep disorders are being set up and manned by dentists, for example, the Sleep Disorders Centre, Guy's Hospital which provides mandibular-repositioning splints and is run by Mark Woolford, Professor of Education at King's Dental Institute.

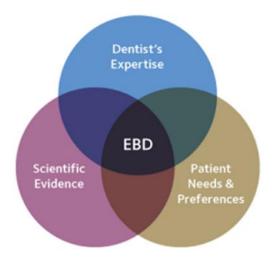
Our patients will gain the most benefit when there is co-operation and understanding between all health workers and that includes Osteopaths, Chiropractors, Cranial and other complementary therapists.

The list of interdisciplinary societies is growing. I have listed a number of these on my blog roll e.g. the Academy of Clinical Sleep Disorder Disciplines, the American Academy of Physiological Medicine & Dentistry, the Australian Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, the International Academy of Biological Dentistry & Medicine. All these academies set out to provide a platform for interdisciplinary discussion with an holistic approach to treating patients. They seek to find the cause as opposed to only addressing the symptoms.

Last year I was invited by the Dean of King's Dental Institute, Professor Dianne Rekow, to give a presentation to final year dental students at Guy's Campus. The title was to be "Beyond BDS" and I chose the sub-title " Exploring the Wider Role of Dentistry". Professor Woolford said that the students had "found it useful" and I was invited back this May. Again it was captured on video. I have already been given a date for 2017! I know that Professor Rekow has a special interest in integrating medicine & dentistry and I hope that will be reflected in the undergraduate curriculum at some time in the near future.

We should be encouraging young practitioners of all disciplines to enhance their knowledge in this wider field and not be intimidated by the so-called lack of Evidence Based Research. The American Dental Association defines evidencebased dentistry as:

> "An approach to oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient's oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist's clinical expertise and the patient's treatment needs and preferences."



This has been endorsed by Professor Kevin O'Brien in his blog of March 7, 2016 entitled "Evidence based orthodontics is not as straightforward as it seems...". In his summary he states " My general feeling is that we should base our treatments on the evidence when it is there. When it is absent, we need to accept that our treatment is based mostly on clinical experience and other sources and we need to explain this to our patients. When we do this we are practising evidence-based orthodontics."

# **Editor Noel Stimson**

# **VIEW POINT**



was recently challenged by an 'establishment' orthodontist to explain the term 'progressive orthodontics' which I had used to infer a difference between what we do and what they do.

At this time of unavoidable global and national political activity it occurred to me that certain political terms might be helpful in responding to this challenge (though hopefully with no capital initial letters):

"Conservative": Disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc., or to restore traditional ones and to limit change.
 "Liberal": Favourable to progress or reform.

Conservative with a small 'C' seems to describe perfectly what we have to contend with from our colleagues in conventional 'mainstream' orthodontics. They stubbornly defend and adhere to outdated science and ideas; stuff that has been around for 150 years with virtually no change. Although it is claimed that fewer cases are being treated with extractions nowadays, the general principles remain much the same:

- ) Reduce overjet and crowding by extractions and retraction of anterior teeth
- ) Correct Class II with combination of extractions and functional appliance
- ) Correct Class III with surgery All this is vehemently defended by claims of

evidence-based dentistry, conveniently overlooking the reality that there is very little viable science out there, even when put under the Cochrane microscope. This applies to both sides of the argument.

Liberal (with a small 'L') is a term most of us can live with; it fits well with the progressive nature of the principles we favour and with the changes we have made or want to make. We want to minimise the loss of healthy teeth; we want to prevent children growing up with under-size arches that have been fixed in space with permanent bonded retainers. It is so sad to see a thirty-something person with a 10 year-old's arch form. We want to be as sure as possible that children grow up with a fully functional airway and a normal sleep pattern, good tongue posture and swallow. Simply straightening the teeth into a beautiful smile is no longer good enough. Today's children have a right to expect so much more now that we know and understand the implications. We cannot un-learn what we now know about the knock-on effects of poor orthodontic intervention.

But we have a problem; there is no 1-to-1 mathematical relationship between malocclusion and unwanted or unhealthy sequelae. Many patients come through retraction orthodontics, for example, and appear to suffer no ill effects whatever! They functional perfectly well and they have well-balanced faces; one of my own granddaughters is such an example. Has the orthodontist involved been very skillful or very fortunate? Or was the patient's malocclusion or cranio-facial structure such that some retraction did little or no damage?

I have seen no study that shows how many or how few patients experience the negative

VIEWPOINT CONTINUED

after-symptoms or problems that we take so much care to avoid. But maybe that is not surprising since these issues are neither recognised nor checked for within the conventional orthodontic establishment. Some vehemently deny (and claim the science supports them) that these health issues have any connection with malocclusion or orthodontic treatment. But we know better.

One of the most advanced and comprehensive orthodontic treatments around today is the MyoBrace system. I watched Chris Farrell's introductory video again the other day and I was impressed by the list of health issues that impact directly with malocclusion and which orthodontists have not been made aware of until recently. If these problems are not recognized early enough, then conventional treatment will at best lock the problems in that position or at worst, exacerbate them. In either case, it does not bode well for the child, and that is a non-Hippocratic way to go.

As Farrell explains in the video, we are mostly pretty good at tooth alignment and correcting the occlusion. We can even improve arch form and facial profile. But what some are not so good at is recognizing breathing disorders and airway problems, sleep difficulties, dysfunctional swallowing and poor lip posture. As for TMD, well let's not go there!

We now have to recognize that these are largely medical issues which are very unlikely to get attention except through an aware dentist or orthodontist or a direct medical referral.

I commented above that some patients treated with 'conventional' extraction/ retraction orthodontics seem not to show any of the negative signs we so often expect to see. But many others do show these signs; we have all seen mature adults with a retruded maxilla and small mandible, thin unsupported lips and a naso-alar angle of 120 degrees or more. All highly suggestive of probable extractionbased orthodontics.

It occurred to me that while we would probably offer corrective treatment for the adult, what would mainstream orthodontics suggest if such a malocclusion presented in a child?



R)

Dr Chris Farrell DDS - Sydney, Australia

# Questioning orthodontics



he doctrines of the orthodontic profession were initially established by Edward Angle in the early 20th century. One hundred years later, with the incidence of malocclusion in modern children approaching 100 per cent and demand among adults for re-treatment following relapsed earlier treatment on the rise, specialist orthodontists should expect a brighter future. However, as the orthodontic profession passes its 100th anniversary, there are reasons to pause and reflect on the basis of those principles established by Angle, who was considered the father of modern orthodontics, a century ago. Although technology has made the mechanics of orthodontics easier for practitioners and treatment more accessible to patients, increasing demand has encouraged non-specialists, who often possess only a rudimentary understanding of the complexities involved in orthodontics. to become involved. This has also given

rise to increasing concerns regarding techniques where the anterior teeth are straightened rapidly then fixed in place via permanent retention, ignoring Angle's dogma of correcting to Class I molar relationship.

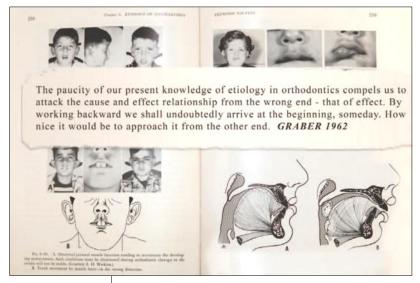
The Australian Society of Orthodontists has expressed their views on their web site:

"The ASO regularly reviews orthodontic courses in the market and to date has not seen any short course that trains a dentist to safely put on fixed appliances or carry out complex orthodontic work"[1].

A further cause for concern is that during the past 100 years, despite technological advances improving the mechanics of orthodontic practice, no scientific evidence has been produced to corroborate Angle's original hypothesis. In fact, following its' inception as the first dental specialty in the early 20th century, according to Dr Cerny "the 'laws of orthodontics' were developed from trial and error assessments, opinions and

**MYOFUNCTION** 

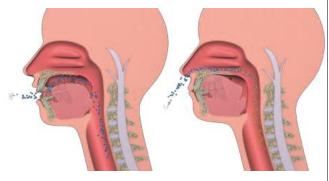
And this from the most eminent Dr James Ackerman writing in the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, reflecting on 100 years of the publication, "Occlusion is no more a science today than it was in the 19th century. In spite of this flawed conceptual underpinning to orthodontics, ideal occlusion is likely to remain the most fundamental concept in orthodontics until a new and hopefully more scientific paradigm replaces it"[3]. Furthermore, "ideal occlusion has served as a highly useful arbitrary standard for judging the



skills of orthodontists and is still the major tool used by the American Board of Orthodontics for ascertaining board qualification. How might orthodontics have evolved if Bonwill and Angle had been more broadly educated in the biologic sciences of their day? Thus, it is fair to say that orthodontics has been more technologically driven than biologically or scientifically based"[4].

This raises the question of whether the aetiology of malocclusion is truly understood or is the orthodontic profession trying to monopolise entrenched and outdated concepts, which lack scientific grounding? It is reasonable to expect that in order to treat safely and effectively, first you need to understand the aetiology.

And this from the Graber text book from the 1960's chapter 6 - ETIOLOGY OF MALOCCLUSION. "the orthodontist should pinpoint the most likely basis for a malocclusion, define it by stripping away associated or symbiotic conditions, study it carefully in broad population groups and then demonstrate its validity. Nothing of this sort has been done in orthodontics"[5]. In fact, "in the past, when a child



Mouth breathing Lower tongue posture

Nose breathing Elevated tongue posture

had protruding upper front teeth and also breathed through the mouth, had enlarged tonsils and adenoids and a short, hypotonic, relatively functionless upper lip, anyone of these factors might have been tabbed as the causative agent in the malocclusion"[6]. Yes – correct. Was Graber trying to tell orthodontists back then to look beyond the occlusion? He continues, "the question of whether they are causative (primary) factors or merely related (symbiotic) factors that may also be attributed an entirely different and unrecognized etiologic entity must be answered"[7].

So rather than arguing who is *capable "to safely put* on fixed appliances or carry out complex orthodontic work"[8], the recognition of the causative or symbiotic factors in malocclusion need to be understood BEFORE we think about treating with only one tool - fixed appliances. Is it coincidence that mouth breathing, enlarged tonsils and incompetent lip function are present in every Class II div 1 malocclusion? Claiming malocclusion is multifactorial while failing to define those factors then treating to arbitrary Class I without reference to the malocclusion's aetiology would seem unscientific at least and fundamentally flawed. After adhering to Angle's doctrine for the previous 100 years, should the way forward for the orthodontic profession involve a shift from the technical and mechanical excellence of the past to a more health driven, biological, evidence based and effective approach[7].

Increasingly, various orthodontic publications, where the fundamental doctrines of traditional orthodontic treatment have been established, the tough questions are being asked "Science had a tough time getting a foothold in orthodontics and has for the entirety of the profession. This might explain why many of our advances have been more technical and *mechanical rather than biological.*"[8] Dr Fields in the centennial guest editorial to the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

Considering the prevalence of treat-ment relapse, as well as the ubiquitous need for permanent retention in fast or slow braces, it raises further questions regarding the effectiveness and long -term benefit of traditional mechanical treatment as well as whether the aetiology of malocclusion is being addressed or only the symptoms. Has the patient really benefitted if the causes have not been addressed? Therefore, in order to effectively address the causes of malocclusion rather than merely treat symptoms, recognition of the aetiology underlying the malocclusion becomes vital. As far back as the 1960's Harvold demonstrated in his experiments with monkeys that "the connection between neuromuscular activity and skeletal mor-phogenesis can be illustrated by a simple ex*periment.*"[54] Nowadays recognition is growing that malocclusion develops as a result of incorrect or restricted craniofacial development, caused by the patient's upper airway or neuromuscular dysfunction. Consequently, it is reasonable to ex- pect that if a child breathes through their mouth, has poor lip or cheek function, has an incorrectly postured tongue and a reverse swallow exacerbated by a nutritionally deficient diet, craniofacial growth will be restricted and they will develop a malocclusion.

Therefore, rather than just straighten the teeth, treatment should first be directed at these contributing factors, not just the malocclusion. Because the aetiology of malocclusion has little to do with the teeth early pre-orthodontic treatment can begin and without the use of braces.

Fortunately for practitioners seeking to distinguish themselves in a more competitive market, recognition of the effect upper airway and neuromuscular dysfunction has on craniofacial growth and therefore, malocclusion, has prompted a change in ideology. As a result, focus has shifted from the technical and mechanical excellence of the past towards more health driven, biological, evidence based and effective approaches to correcting or preferably preventing malocclusion altogether. Again, the orthodontic journals are now publishing more on airway as the new way. However, it was really there all the time and we missed Graber's, Harvold's and Ricketts' bio-logical approach.

The author penned the title 'myofunctional orthodontics' 30 years ago. It could also be called

aetiology orthodontics. The core tenets of myofunctional orthodontics are aimed towards addressing the aetiology of malocclusion. Rather than just straightening teeth into an arbitrary Class I and then retaining forever, myofunctional orthodontic practitioners target the upper airway and neuromuscular dysfunction, which inhibits craniofacial development. Furthermore, by focusing on the aetiology of the malocclusion and promoting correct growth in the primary or early mixed dentition, teeth are often provided with the space required to move into the correct alignment naturally, "and often the teeth will come in straight even before you get to the braces." According to New Jersey Orthodontist Dr Barry Raphael, "Just as the future of medicine has to be looking at root cause, the future of orthodontics is also going to be looking at root cause." [56].

The rectification of the aetiological factors restricting development can not only correct malocclusion, with myofunctional orthodontics it is possible to begin treatment while the patient is young enough to satisfy the increasing demand from parents for early orthodontic intervention. Because "the optimal timing for myofunctional intervention is a period of active growth and development with high adaptive capacity"[57], upper airway and neuromuscular dysfunction can be corrected before it reaches a severity "which would require considerable efforts to correct later in life"[14].

Because during "the last 766 years, no one has been able to produce scientific evidence to corroborate Bonwill and Angle's original hypothesis" [59] and the only advances in orthodontic practice have been mechanical, myofunctional orthodontics represents a logical step forward. According to the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics "Research presented in our journal in the next century may shed new light that will help us better identify the problem and aid the speciality in developing more effective evidence-based treatment" [16].

When considering the challenges, the orthodontic profession is faced with today this change of direction cannot come soon enough. No longer does the profession have a monopoly on orthodontic care and technology has enabled access for more patients who are predominantly treated using century old mechanical doctrines by either orthodontic specialists or by the less well-trained general dentist. Compounding this is the oversupply of new dental professionals and corporatisation of the dental industry where orthodontic care has been relegated to a mere commodity where the dollar value can become more important than a patient's health and well-being. However, myofunctional orthodontics requires a new paradigm in learning for the specialty of orthodontics, which tends to be behind on these diagnostic skills to safely "carry out complex (myofunctional) orthodontic work" [17] in growing children in the future. Time to learn new skills.

For some orthodontic practitioners, reliant on the traditional orthodontic standard of care, the profitability of the past is diminishing, and the future is far from assured. However, for forward thinking practitioners it has presented the opportunity to play an active

role in shaping the profession's future by looking towards new treatment systems, which are evidence based and health driven rather than focused on just mechanically straightening teeth into an arbitrary Class I. In fact, when considering "the history of how orthodontic education evolved, it is easy to see how the specialty could grow, flow, and turn with ideas and views that were not science-based and were provided by a selected few persons"[18].

Myofunctional orthodontics, which is focused on treating the aetiology of malocclusion to achieve lifelong natural health outcomes by establishing nasal breathing as a primary goal, provides a means for today's practitioners to distinguish themselves from the crowd. Additionally, there are new opportunities emerging that offer

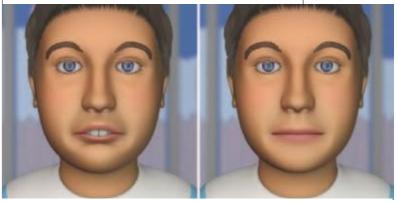


Making orthodontic cases easier and shaping the future with myofunctional orthodontics.

the prospect for forward thinking orthodontic professionals to work with members of the medical profession and offer solutions for the health issues related to sleep disordered breathing (SDB).

"Since the beginning of our specialty, our understanding of the link between function and facial growth and development has progressively improved. Today, we know that children with sleeprelated breathing problems will often develop distinctive facial characteristics" [19].

Furthermore, paediatric SDB has been recognised as causing widespread health, developmental and behavioural problems, including difficulty concentrating at school. Additionally, as well as being detrimental to the development of the face, jaws and teeth, if left untreated paediatric SDB



Myofunctional orthodontics focuses on treating the aetiology of malocclusion to achieve lifelong natural health outcomes by establishing nasal breathing as a primary goal.

can lead to significant and serious health problems causing poor quality of life later in adulthood. "Untreated OSA can result in serious morbidity and mortality mostly caused by cardiovascular disease and traffic accidents"[20]. Understanding of the relationship between upper airway and neuromuscular dysfunction, poor craniofacial develop-ment and malocclusion has progressively improved during the last century. Nowadays, because malocclusion is recognised as a symptom of the same upper airway and neuromuscular dysfunction causing SDB, "treating

these patients presents unique opportunities for orthodontists to collaborate with other medical specialties to improve a patient's health and treatment outcome"[21].

After a century of following the fundamentals of Angle where an arbitrary occlusion has been the standard by which orthodontic treatment success has been judged, even though very little advancement has been made regarding the science of occlusion, the orthodontic profession is now asking the hard questions evoking potential rapid change. Rather than rely on technologically advanced, mechanical methods of straightening teeth into an arbitrary alignment, the focus is shifting towards new means of recognising and then addressing the aetiology of malocclusion.

"The paucity of our present knowledge of etiology in orthodontics compels us to attack the cause and effect relationship from the wrong end – that of effect. By working backward we shall undoubtedly arrive at the beginning, someday. How nice it would be to approach it from the other end"[66]. Dr Tom Graber 1962.

Now in 2015 the profession can begin employing more evidence-based approaches. Because "Orthodontists can ask sleep-related questions in the health history to help identify sleep breathing disorders. Treating these patients presents unique opportunities for orthodontists to collaborate with other medical specialties to improve a patient's health and treatment outcom."[23].

As a result of new treatment systems focused on the aetiology of malocclusion as well as breathing and myofunctional disorders, there is now an opportunity for the orthodontic profession to collaborate and not compete with general dentists to both achieve the status of premier dental specialty as well as become more closely integrated into the medical profession.

Myofunctional orthodontics ideally incorporates evidence based, biological solutions from the past, "creating brighter futures" [24] for all.

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Dr Chris Farrell graduated from the University of Sydney in 1971 with a BDS, having gained a comprehensive knowledge of traditional orthodontic treatment using the BEGG technique. As a result of his clinical experience he became interested in TMJ/TMD disorder and after further research, discovered the aetiology of malocclusion and TMJ disorder was myofunctional, which contradicted the established view of his profession. Dr Farrell founded Myofunctional Research Co. (MRC) in 1989 with the intention to develop a myofunctional orthodontic system targeted at treating the upper airway and neurofunctional dysfunction causing malocclusion. Dr Farrell's Myobrace and Trainer systems have proven extremely effective at providing early preventive pre-orthodontic treatment and are now used by dental professionals in more than 100 countries.



# **Reports of two recent studies**

The following studies were recently published as described and subsequently pointed out to the Editor as relevant to the work that we do. For space reasons, the reports comprise the Abstract, Introduction and Conclusion of each study, leaving the reader to access the original study to see the actual data etc.

Study #1: "The origin and development of malocclusions; when, where and how dental malocclusions develop" Dr Merle Loudon DDS

## Abstract:

**MYOFUNCTION** 

This article describes the forces of the muscles from the stomatognathic system and how they interact in many children to change the normal forces of growth. Because of this change in muscle forces there is a change from normal teeth and bone growth positions to abnormal positions. Theses normal and/or abnormal changes in muscle forces are the basis for development into Class I, Class II and Class III occlusions. This is very valuable information for the orthodontist because these muscle forces are the fundamental basis for all orthodontic treatment. By knowing this an orthodontist will be more able to diagnose and treat a malocclusion. This is exceptionally important for the dentist who is just starting to learn diagnosis, treatment planning, functional and fixed orthodontic treatment.

## Introduction:

Every dentist that starts on an orthodontic venture needs to understand the importance of growth and development of the stomatognathic system. However, most of the time, many dentists that teach beginning orthodontic dental courses skip over the fundamentals of growth and development, one of the most important subjects. Growth and development produces a good dentition and/or malocclusions which these dentists are going to be treating every time they start an orthodontic case.

When a football coach trains a football

team, he concentrates on the fundamentals of execution. The defensive fundamentals that are the most important are blocking and tackling. Many games are won or lost by not using the fundamentals of blocking and tackling to "get your man."

The same fundamentals apply to every dentist (orthodontist) who starts an orthodontic case. Every dentist needs to know what has caused the malocclusion that he is going to treat. In other words, one has to know the muscles, structures, attachments, forces, balances, imbalances, resting and swallowing tongue positions. He also has many other things to understand why, how and where to correct imbalances in order to get everything in a normal and correct state.

Knowing the functional malocclusion development and function is absolutely necessary in orthodontics. Without this knowledge your orthodontic treatment may fail on many patients. In an article written in The Functional Orthodontist in July/August 1988 the author wrote about the "The Functional Muscle Malocclusion Development and Function." In that article, he states, "The airway and muscles inside and outside of the stomatognathic system shape the form of the good occlusion or malocclusion. However, we must put all the pieces of the different factors together to get a logical, good common knowledge of growth, both normal and abnormal. Otherwise, without that knowledge, the diagnosis and treatment plan may be 100% wrong, and relapse of treatment may occur. We must understand the values and perimeters of balanced and imbalanced muscle movement."

#### **Conclusion:**

A thorough knowledge of the stomatognathic development and malocclusion sequence is the basis of the orthodontic diagnosis and treatment planning. Likewise, this knowledge will affect the way you decide early treatment and the timing for fixed orthodontic treatment. This knowledge will help dentists change the way orthodontics is performed over the next decade. Early recognition and treatment of malocclusions, along with more muscle, bone and tooth knowledge certainly will be a great help in diagnosis and treatment planning of malocclusions. Procedures like early tongue thrust appliances, Primary Molar Buildups, widening the maxillary arch on early Class III malocclusions, and universal widening of Class II patients should be the norm.

Because of these fundamental development factors, the author has found that there are only six major movements of teeth. These are distalizing, enlarging (widening), anteriorizing, reducing, extracting and verticalizing, (The Dearev Formula). There are many other minor movements needed along with these major movements, but these forces change the environment that contains the teeth. A practitioner must remember that timing of movements and methods of treatment provides many challenges.

We must also be able to select the appliances which correct muscle function and correct muscle forces. We must keep up on the information that will advance the orthodontic treatment methods and improvements that make orthodontic treatment better and more efficient. With the efforts of every dental practitioner, research facility, orthodontic lab, and dental school research, we are learning new advances every day that will make orthodontics easier and more rewarding.

Understanding the fundamentals of development, muscle actions and forces are very important in treatment planning, diagnosis and treatment. *Reference for this peer-reviewed feature article:* 

"The Originand Development of Malocclusions. When, Where and How Dental Malocclusions Develop". Merle Loudon DDS. Int J Ortho. Vol 24. No1, Spring 2013, page 57-64.



### Study #2: The Influence of Myofunctional Therapy on Upper Intercanine Distance

Christoph E. Moschik, Margit Pichelmayer, Sandra Coulson and Brigitte Wendl

#### School of Dentistry, Medical University of Graz, Austria

#### Abstract:

**Objectives:** The study was designed to investigate the correlation between myofunctional exercises, including repositioning of the tongue onto the palate and changes in inter-canine distance of the upper jaw in non-growing patients.

**Methods:** In this retrospective study a total of 141 women and men above the age of 18, treated by the Coulson Institute of Orofacial Myology, with no simultaneous orthodontic therapy, were included. All subjects have participated in a myofunctional therapy program for at least 8 months. The training consisted of various muscle exercises for the lips, cheeks, tongue and body posture and breathing. Additionally, the patients put a small dissolvable gelatine pad onto the palate three times a day to assist the swallowing function. Throughout therapy the length of the philtrum, inter-canine distance and overjet were measured.

**Results:** After 8 sessions the average inter-canine distance increased by 3.2 mm, the philtrum elongated by 5.4 mm and the overjet

decreased by 1.2 mm.

#### **Conclusion:**

The results indicate that tooth position can be changed by muscle therapy, even in non-growing subjects. This implies that muscle training can be a highly supportive therapy for orthodontic treatment.

#### Introduction:

Orofacial myology therapy is a growing field in orthodontic therapy in the last decades around the world. This therapy principle includes the treatment of facial muscle imbalances, training of tongue posture and establishing equilibrium between the tongue, lip and the cheek muscles. Muscle function has become an important concern in orthodontic treatment as the awareness about long-term stability has risen. A balanced facial muscle system is considered as important factor contributing to a stable orthodontic treatment outcome. The inter-canine distance is a transverse measurement of the dentition at its most important position for occlusal function, namely the canines. The skeletal, alveolar and dental width of the jaw is determined by two important factors, which are genetics and function.

These two factors correlate with the overall body growth factors and are responsible for morphologic development. While the genetic component currently cannot be influenced or controlled through therapy, it is possible to influence the function. As function is the second most important factor relative to form in the sense of biological and medical terms, it is a logical consequence to design and apply therapy methods indirectly to exert influence on the morphology.

The noun "function" itself is described as "a thing dependent on another factor or factors" by the Oxford dictionary. The function of the stomatognathic system involves the interaction of all participating tissues such as teeth, jaws, temporomandibular joint, muscles and the oral cavity. This concludes that the function of the stomatognathic system is composed of masticatory, phonetic and physiognomic tasks, working together forming a "morphological and functional unit".

When morphology and functions are in balance normal development of the jaws and teeth result, which is called eugnathia. In the case of aberrance from the norm, "dysgnathia", "dysalveolarism" or "malocclusion" and dysfunction occur, it is of high importance to understand, how each of these factors influences the other. Orofacial dysfunction can increase the severity of malocclusion, and vice versa.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Dr. Edward Angle stated that the field of orthodontics was only at the beginning of understanding what influences the cheeks, tongue and lips have on malocclusion and the difficulties to alter them. Furthermore, he stated that there was no chance to have longterm success in therapy without correcting the malfunction of this system. It is utterly important to recognize and diagnose a certain problem before being able to correct it .

Additionally Moyers claimed that therapy was needed to address the root of the problem directly as well as to treat the causes of malocclusion, instead of just straightening teeth.

Nowadays, the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation has become more vital and orthodontists, myofunctional therapists and logopaedics, specialized physical therapists, ear- nose-throat specialists, and paediatricians are concerned about the topic of orofacial function.

Each one of these disciplines ought to influence the facial morphology of the patient by changing the function toward a eugnathic norm. This interdisciplinary therapy can be classified as follows:

Orthotropic treatment targets the growth of the face and jaws as well as trying to give the body the chance for self-correction to selfcorrect. Diagnosis consists of checking the patient for abnormal function, like thumb sucking or mouth breathing. Therapy aims to enable normal swallowing, proper breathing through the nose with a closed mouth and to stop any habits, like thumb sucking or lip chewing. To maximize the effect of this therapy, it is best applied in young childreOrofacial myofunctional dysfunction is not solely limited to children, but can also occur in adults with permanent dentition; hence, treatment should be applied whenever improper function occurs. n. The earlier therapy is applied and a habit is broken, the more chances there are for the body to return to normal development.

Orthopaedic therapy is applied if jaw discrepancies are already

apparent, either due to excessive or restrictive bone growth. It consists of intraoral or extra-oral appliances that apply a high force on the maxillary or mandibular bone and thus attempt to either encourage or decrease growth.

Orofacial myofunctional dysfunction is not solely limited to children, but can also occur in adults with permanent dentition; hence, treatment should be applied whenever improper function occurs.

Orthodontic treatment is described as the adjustment of the occlusion by moving and aligning the teeth. In this stage the jaws should be already eugnathic. Orofacial Myofunctional techniques are often only applied after Orthotropics and orthopaedics are finished.

Summarizing these techniques, it can be said that orthotropic therapy should be applied somewhere between ages 0 and 8, at the beginning of the change to the second dentition. This is followed by orthopaedic therapy, which should be executed during the early phase of the second dentition and correlates with the age of 9 until all permanent teeth are exfoliated. By the time the dentition is fully developed, orthodontic therapy is indicated.

As age progresses and growth slowly ceases, the possibility to influence jaw growth decreases. While the impact on jaw growth subsides, tooth movement is still possible throughout the life – this is the standard opinion of worldwide orthodontists during the last five decades.

Orofacial myofunctional dysfunction is not solely limited to children, but can also occur in adults with permanent dentition; hence, treatment should be applied whenever improper function occurs. The therapy is then based on the assumption that these changes appear due to improper usage of the oralmusculature system and if an adequate function is restored, the body will adapt and the facial growth will change according to it. This theory goes along with the Functional Matrix Theory which claims that the whole stomatognathic system develops, aside from genetics, along with the demanding functions

and the tasks that are given to it.

For example, studies have reported a correlation between the tongue resting position and the form of the palate. If the tongue does not rest on the palate a high vault develops, occasionally narrowing the base of the nose and con-

stricting nasal airflow.

Furthermore a correlation between the masseter muscle thickness and the maxillary arch width exists. In general it can be assumed that craniofacial width is linked with the cross- sectional areas or thickness of the masticatory muscles .

By defining the maxillary transverse bone dimension, masticatory muscles can also influence the upper inter-canine width, which again can give information about the arch length and inter-molar width .

#### Conclusion

A high correlation coefficient between myofunctional therapy in adult patients and width was found for the upper arch. Repositioning the tongue and practicing muscular exercises for the lips, tongue, face and posture lead to an increase of maxillary intercanine width of 3.2 mm in average and changes of the upper lip length of 5.4 mm within roughly eight months.

Changes in the dental formation can therefore be influenced by muscle therapy in non-growing patients.

# **Dr Tony O'Connor BSc BDS**

# **Orofacial Myofunction**



Cork dentist Dr Tony O'Connor explains why early orthodontic intervention is imperative in tackling a range of developmental problems among children

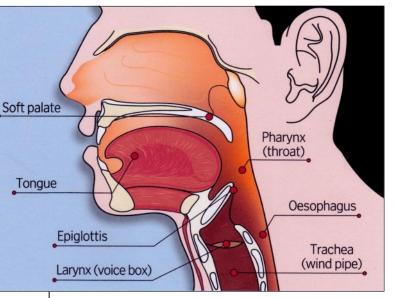
**MYOFUNCTION** 

ental healthcare professionals are encouraged to assess orofacial myofunctional disorders (OMDs) in their patients. Interest in myofunctional therapy by sleep experts is compelling dental healthcare professionals to revisit the evaluation of myofunctional disorders. Many dental practices pay little attention to OMD and the role they play in craniofacial growth, the airway and overall general health.

Negative craniofacial growth can be attributed to OMD[1]. The consumption of soft processed foods also has also had a negative effect on craniofacial growth [2]. Improper dentofacial growth and devel-

opment can contribute to a restricted upper airway and associated sleep disorders. Since experts agree that 70% of facial growth is complete by age seven [1,3], early identification and timely treatment of OMD may decrease the risk factors for sleep disordered breathing, and of course, the need for possible extractions for orthodontics later.

Winter can bring the advent of winter bugs and viruses, keeping doctors busy with sick children and stressed parents. Imagine a seven year-old child presents to the local GP complaining of sore throat and chesty cough. The child is also bed-wetting and Mum wonders if the cold resulted from lying in the wet bed? The doctor examines the child and diagnoses inflamed tonsils. Another course of antibiotics is prescribed, yet again. When Mum asks why the tonsillitis keeps recurring, the doctor suggests a referral to an ENT surgeon. The doctor re-assures Mum



that while upsetting, the child is young and will probably grow out of wetting the bed.

Once recovered from the illness, Mum brings the child to the dentist. She is concerned about some mild crowding of the lower incisors. She reminds the dentist that the child tends to "gag" and is quite a fussy eater, to the point that most foods have to be mashed or puréed. During the consultation she expresses her concern about the child's tooth grinding, particularly at night. The dentist examines the child, reassuring Mum that there are no cavities and explains that bruxing is not unusual at that age. Mum is told that the mild incisor crowding will be monitored, and should orthodontic treatment be required, it would be best to wait till all the permanent teeth erupt at about 11 or 12 years of age.

This common medical/dental scenario is all to often played out. However, if viewed from an

"Airway health" perspective, there are many clues to indicate that the child's dentofacial growth may not be proceeding normally.

These red flags include: recurrent tonsillitis, chesty cough, bed wetting, mild lower incisor crowding, over-sensitive gag reflex and a soft diet. In fact all the clinical signs and symptoms above.

How could the above medical and dental complaints negatively impact on craniofacial growth and result in not only malocclusion, but a myriad of supposedly "unrelated" health problems for the child? If parents and healthcare professional alike are trained to recognise the very obvious signs and symptoms of inadequate craniofacial growth and learn to adopt an early interceptive philosophy, could it be that many paediatric health issues would be alleviated or ameliorated?

If this were possible, and it is, the significance should not be under estimated by parents, health professionals or government, as the overall physical and emotional well-being of the child would be greatly enhanced. Not only would this new protocol have an enormous positive financial impact on government health spending

(Heckman Report), but the number of children presenting with crooked teeth and poorly-developed faces, in tandem with airway-related health problems, could be greatly reduced.

There is now a lot of scientific evidence to show the effects of mouth breathing and OMD on craniofacial growth and our overall health[4]. Stuydies on mouth breathing by Harvold[5] in the 1970s revealed the harmful effects on facial growth in monkeys. Researchers inserted latex plugs into the noises of rhesus monkeys in order to evaluate the effects of mouth breathing on facial structure. The monkeys were forced to switch from nasal breathing to mouth breathing. To compensate for the inability to breathe through the nose, the monkeys developed postural changes which were followed by soft tissue changes.

The craniofacial muscles then caused various malocclusions including retrognathia, prognathia, and anterior open bites, when forced by the new functional demand. The interaction between oral and facial structural growth and muscle activity starts early in development and con-



Patient presented age 10 complaining of protruding upper front teeth. She had a mouth breathing pattern with lips apart most of the time with a bilateral tongue thrust. She is currently undergoing Orthotropics and myofunctional therapy. She will another year in treatment. Due to her poor myofunctional habits, i.e. mouth breathing, both upper and lower jaws are under developed. Her upper front teeth are are not actually protrusive at all; her lower jaw is fact retruded. Orthotropics aims to correct this negative growth pattern.



tinues throughout childhood. Chronic oral breathing is an important clinical marker of orofacial muscle dysfunction, which may be associated with narrow high-vaulted palate, nasal obstruction leading to negative changes in facial structure[4].

These negative changes are reflected in the skeletal malocclusions such as Angle Class II and III and open or closed bites. The resulting dentitions that evolve also reflect negative growth patterns such as crowding (mild or severe) and crossbites, etc.

Harvold's experiments, although, although crude, proved that changing the oral environment caused a structural change in the form of the face. To put it another way, when function changed, form changed. Anthropologists believe that modern man (*homo sapiens*) has been around for 250,000 years—a very short time on the evolutionary clock. For most of this time we were huntergatherers and it was only in the last 12,000 years that farming and agriculture became established. This more sedentary lifestyle brought with it a change in diet.

Anthropologists have shown that changes in facial

form began around this time. In fact they can prove that the human face started to "shrink" or retract approximately 10,000 years ago. This pace accelerated since the Industrial Revolution. Our Paleolithic ancestors had much more forward facial profiles and examination of skulls show broad dental arches - with inter-molar width of 55mm - and plenty of room for 32 teeth, including an extra 10mm behind the wisdom teeth (Daniel Lieberman).

# What does a "shrinking face" mean, and does it matter?

The human head is composed of 22 bones; 8 bones of the neuro-cranium (the occipital, 2 temporals, 2 parietals, sphenoid, frontal and ethmoid bones) and 14 bones of the viscero-cranium. Space for the brain itself is almost fully established at birth with neuro-growth having occurred rapidly *in utero*. However, growth of the face (viscerocranium) is only approximately 35 per cent established at birth. Growth of the face is quite fast reaching 60 percent by age 4 and finishing around age 12.

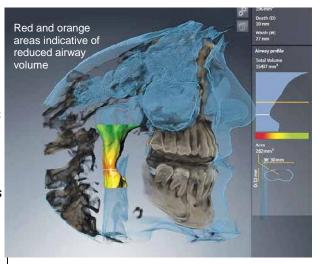
As well as having sufficient room to accommodate all 32 teeth, our Paleolithic ancestors had remarkable dentitions with few cavities and no malocclusions. Sadly, this is not the story today, yet the genotype remains the same. Growth of the facial structure is very much influenced by the oral environment; the correct direction of growth is forward and downward from the cranial base[6].

We need space for the internal organs - the tongue, the nasal passage, the oropharynx and space to accommodate the larynx, the thyroid, the trachea and oesophagus and let's not forget all 32 teeth. But most importantly of all, to accommodate the airway. The mature oropharyngeal airway should be 10 - 12mm wide. When it is less or becomes blocked, we are going to experience a disturbance in breathing; anything that interferes with the oxygen supply to our organs is not good.

If the required architecture does not develop properly, compromises will be reflected in form and function. I like the statement "Anatomy is the platform on which physiology is based". If the anatomy is underdeveloped, we can only expect changes in our physiology later. We are now seeing a rise in the number of people suffering from hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, sleep apnoea (OSA) and sleep disordered breathing (SDB), stroke, ADHD and other behaviour problems.

#### The emergence of dental sleep medicine

Many dental offices in the US have incorporated



dental sleep medicine into their practice, because numerous patients are presenting with the aforementioned issues. There are many correlations between poor craniofacial growth, malocclusion and the above health issues. Upper airway imaging has allowed us to understand the biomechanical bases for OSA and mouth-breathing.

The new CBCT imaging software programs provide accurate mapping of the oropharyngeal airway. This can be very important in designing orthodontic treatment plans. In cases of impeded airway it is important to recognise the structural imbalance and take adequate steps to achieve harmony and facial balance in conjunction with the restoration of physiological functions. Sleep disorders have been estimated to affect 50-70 million people in the US and are linked to increased risk of hypertension, diabetes, depression, heart attack and stroke[8]. Furthermore the risk of a serious car accident increases when the driver is sleepy. There are now numerous reports of such car and rail accidents attributed to drivers falling asleep at the wheel. Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent each year on medical costs related to sleep disorders.

# What impact does sleep disordered breathing have on children?

In children, snoring, mouth breathing and OSA can have a negative effect on behaviour as well as the ability to pay attention in school. In a large multi -year cohort of 11,000 patients, it was shown that in children from 6 months to 7 year of age, snoring, OSA and mouth breathing contribute to increased risk of ADHD, peer to peer behavioural problems, increased anxiety and depression[9].

David McIntosh, an ENT surgeon based in Australia, has an interesting website: (www.entspecialists.com.au) on which many of the recent research papers on the airway issue and how



Patient age 9. Mum complained of his crooked teeth. Child is a chronic mouth breather and very hyper-active prior to treatment. He has a vertical growth pattern with both upper and lower jaws retruded. Airway space was compromised and he was a restless sleeper. No sleep study under-taken. Presently undergoing Orthotropics and now much improved. Treatment is still ongoing.



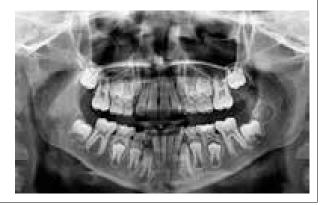
it impacts on the brains of young children, are reviewed.

The consequences of poor sleep add up over time; studies are now showing that when sleep architecture is affected on a regular basis, Alzheimer's disease leading to dementia increases. During the period of deep sleep our brains are cleansed of metabolic waste that builds up during the day. Research shows that patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease have a build up of a protein called amyloid. This affects the communication system within the brain. In studies of mice where oxygen levels decreased, their brains started to show a build up amyloid[10, 11]. There are many causes of a bad night's sleep; one of them is sleep apnoea[12].

#### It's not just the brain that suffers

Apart from all the problems with brain function. SDB in children also has an adverse effect on heart and blood pressure[15]. In fact it may very well be that high blood pressure experienced in adulthood originates from sleep problems in childhood[16].

The seven year-old boy brought to visit the doctor and dentist could well have been showing signs of Sleep Disordered Breathing. Regular bouts of



tonsillitis is associated with mouth breathing. Further questions may have revealed a snoring issue too.

Teeth grinding (bruxism) is an indicator of an airway problem. Historically it has been associated with a psychological problem - stress perhaps? What we know now is that children who grind their teeth and have an airway problem, once the airway is fixed 80 percent of them stop grinding their teeth. Maybe they are stressed because they cannot breath properly?[13].

This seven year-old displayed crowding of lower anteriors, another indicator of poor facial growth and a developing malocclusion. Bed wetting is another indicator of a narrow palate.

An interesting book called "Naso-Respiratory Function and Craniofacial Growth" edited by James A McNamara Jr. features a chapter written by orthodontist Dr Robert M Rubins. In it he states "*The recognition that crisis care in medicine is the least effective and the most expensive therapy has focussed the attention of health providers on prevention.* 

"Similarly, in dentistry, the understanding of the pathology of dental caries and periodontal disease has led to a preventive orientation; control of plaque. Yet in orthodontics it is common practice to allow the course of detrimental growth to proceed until its virtual completion before commencing treatment.

By age four the craniofacial skeleton has reached 60 percent of its adult size; By age twelve, the age when most orthodontists initiate treatment, 90 percent of facial growth has occurred (Meredith 1953). To wait until a deformity is 90 percent established before instituting treatment is not consistent with a preventive philosophy."

#### Conclusions

It is obvious from the above information that we need to screen our young patients earlier. Screening can start with the dental hygienist or nurse taking the medical history and asking specific questions, such as:

- Birth, normal or induced? Long labour? Forceps or suction delivery?
- Breast or bottle feeding?
- Did baby experience colic?
- Bed wetting? Sleep posture? Night terrors?
- Snoring, drooling on pillow?
- Teeth grinding or gagging?
- Sleep apnoea? (Epworth sleep questionnaire)
- Tongue-tie, lip tie, tongue scalloping?
- Mallampati Score, indication of oropharyngeal airway?
- Tongue thrusting, OMD?
- Facial profile?
- · Gummy smile?
- Non-nutritive sucking habits?

Other records such as x-rays and photographs also help to tailor a treatment plan for the young patient. Awareness of the above signs and symptoms should help us to iden-tify if a child's facial growth is not proceeding normally.

To quote Dr John Flutter, a dentist practising in Brisbane, Australia: *"Nothing will change if nothing changes."* 

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Dr O'Connor would like to apologise to Paula Fabbie for an oversight in his article, 'Orofacial myofunction'. Dr O'Connor would like to give credit to Ms Fabbie's article "Myofunctional analysis and its role in dental assessments and oral health" which may be found at <www.ineedce.com>

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Dr Tony O'Connor is a general dentist working in Cork, Ireland. He first graduated from University College Cork in 1979 with a BSc (Hons) degree in biochemistry and later qualified in 1986 with a BDS. He worked for a few years for the NHS in UK before returning to Cork to commence general dental practice. He has always had a keen interest in non extraction orthodontics and has taken many postgraduate courses worldwide in functional orthodontics.

# **Dr Chris Harris** - Osteopath

# An osteopathic perspective



OSTEOPATHY

ell, one osteopath's perspective, at any rate. My most seminal experience of working in the area of face, teeth and jaws was as follows: I was not long out of college - two years, if I remember rightly - and not long previously I had done the first of many postgraduate courses with the Sutherland Cranial College. A middle-aged woman presented to my clinic with a variant of the usual mechanical dysfunction that gets patients through Osteopaths' doors: her cervico-dorsal junction was badly jammed up, giving her local pain and some nasty headaches. This responded well to treatment and she was a clearly doing better within a couple of sessions. Then a funny thing happened: she kept on coming. I didn't object - she was keen to attend and I was building a practice after all. Treatments then progressed on down through the layers, as they usually do. First of all we worked through the effects of a whiplash ten years previously. Then a more recent event, a separate blow to the occiput after a fall on an icy pavement: a classic injury. A primary was gradually revealed: there was a really nasty stasis and intraosseous compression in her right maxilla, which I found myself treating repeatedly, both intra- and extra-orally.

After some reticence the reason for her keenness to attend was also gradually revealed. She told me that each time I did the work she would float home feeling quite euphoric at first but then cry her eyes out for the rest of the evening. In the aftermath of this she would experience notable relief from a longstanding problem of depression for a blissful week to ten days. Then sadly the 'black dog' (thank you Mr.W.Churchill for that apt analogy) would start to stalk her again and she would come back for another treatment. These were initially biweekly but as the tissue quality changed and her new and better mood became more stable, we were able to extend the intervals. When I left the practice, the treatments were three-monthly and she was much happier by then. I never did work out the aetiology of the problem nor, of course, exactly how her Serotonin levels were reorganised as a result of my gently probing gloved index finger. They surely were, however. Have I got a double-blind trial to prove the effect? It would be nice, but no. Do I need one in order to work effectively? Not really.

So, this was when I was first metaphorically 'bitten on the backside' as to the potential importance of good functioning in this area. That was in the mid 90's and a good bit of water has duly progressed under the bridge including many courses and much detailed study. Patients who were previously very tricky have been helped a lot by some judicious tweaking of the Stomatognathic apparatus. I have had many a lively discussion with Osteopathic colleagues, consisting often of bemoaning the intransigent functional messes we are left to deal with as a result of ill-advised dental intervention, extraction ortho clearly being high on the list. Then I had a bit of a 'Eureka' moment: my introduction by a friend to Meurig Devonald, sadly no longer with us. He introduced me to Dr. Hedger and the BSSCMD and I attended my first conference in, I think, 2003. At last: someone, other than my fellow Osteopaths, who was talking my language. It was a revelation: to find that there were dentists working who knew something of what they were affecting and who had some respect for the structure-function relationships. A revelation, too, was their bemoaning of the intransigent functional messes that they too were left to deal with as a result of ill-advised interventions by some of their very own professional brethren.

Observing the different styles of work presented by our group over the years and juxtaposing them with my own has been an interesting process for me. We are indeed a very heterogeneous lot. The pattern at our meetings seems to be thus: a case history or three is gone through; a patient is shown to have obviously derived benefit, which is always a cause for celebration; then a detailed presentation is given, complete with anatomical illustrations suggesting that it is all about the Atlas/Vomer/Muscle chains/TMJ health/adequate hydration. Looking at all these approaches, one colleague put it well: 'It's like the Wild West,' he said.

With my own patients, I have attempted to incorporate all that to which I have been exposed. Some of this has been useful, some less so and I have found that I have the best results when I rely on what I know best and what makes most sense to me. This is both in terms of my training and with my palpatory experiences in treating people. I would like to give a flavour of my own perspective. Of particular importance are the Maxillae - no surprise there, of course – however I would like to take this further.

My background as a Cranial Osteopath suggests that the skull functions as a three dimensional jigsaw. Left and right sides of the cranium and the whole body rhythmically move into internal and external rotation in mirror images of each other in a manner palpable to an attentive pair of hands. This is essential to life and health. Trauma and other influences, good and bad, affect the symmetry, potency and amplitude of this. Being happy, with a good diet and being of sturdy genetic stock is helpful. Trauma, on the other hand, is not. Facial trauma is particularly poorly tolerated. Between the maxillae and the rest of the skull exists a highly complex system of shock absorbers. This allows us to chew food without damaging ourselves. It consists of the zygomae, the vomer and the palatines. Study of the anatomy of the sutures reveals this. For the classic example of this, have a look at the grooves on the posterior aspect of the perpendicular plate of the palatines where the pterygoid plates of the sphenoid glide up and down.

Override these protective mechanisms and there will be consequences. I am sure my readers will be familiar with this. I get great results by freeing up these relationships, the palatines in particular. What are less often mentioned are intraosseous stresses. Between the bones, interosseous: within the bones, intra-osseous. The maxilla is a case in point: there is an embryological seam between the pre- and postmaxillae. Each are formed from quite separate structures early on in utero. The bones are united before we are born, but there is still an axis of movement about which buckling and shearing can occur. If these are left untreated, results are less good. Familiar dental patterns involving distortions in this area are partly a manifestation of this. I am frequently required to treat and release the premaxillae, the postmaxillae and the axis of each upper canine quite separately to get a good solid change. By the way a 'good solid change' means exactly that: good changes in the spinal mechanics plus good overall vitality and wellbeing and also relief from a wide variety of health issues.

Most exciting to me, however, are the clear, dimensional changes that I have seen in the dental arch, and this not just in my young, growing patients. Those little Osteoclasts and Osteoblasts are constantly beavering away, remodelling. Get them 'on side' and lovely things happen. It has been my experience that the work that I do considerably speeds up the process when developmental work with ALF's and other appliances is necessary, which it clearly often is.

Even in the absence of ongoing appliance work, or indeed any obvious occlussal problems, all sorts of problems respond if these relationships are corrected. Dr Dean may remember me persuading him to divide at the midline a rigid appliance that went from upper two to upper two in a patient suffering with chronic debilitating headaches. He was a bit worried that her teeth would move. Maybe they did, however I am glad to report that a year later she is now happy and headache free.

Another example of work in this area is in the treatment of PMS [pre-menstrual syndrome]. Some emotional sensitivity within womens monthly cycle is normal, however when acute this condition can be debilitating and distressing with uncontrollable and embarrassing surges of emotions. It can destroy relationships and cause employment problems. My patients appreciate that I take it seriously. Think of the proximity with the pituitary within the sella turcica and how its function may be compromised. The little pituitary stalk perforates the diaphragma sellae and is vulnerable to local strains. A number of my patients have had good changes with Osteopathic work to this area. One lady came to me with a largely unrelated mechanical problem. I spotted the massive A-P compression across her cranial base she was sporting and asked about her hormonal balance. This was a big problem for her. She was normally even-tempered, however when under the spell of PMT she was a different person and she knew it. Amongst other issues, there was

the unfortunate habit of ramming her car into the cars of other drivers who had incurred her displeasure on the road. Given some timely legal intervention, this would probably have happened only once, had not the recipients of her ire - all male, apparently - taken one look at her expression and chosen to drive away at high speed rather than confront her. I am happy to say that after a course of treatment [maxillae primary again] she made excellent progress and is now a rage-free driver.

This is just a snippet: much more could be said. Certainly I do not focus solely on the maxillae. If there is a clear injury primary then spinal mechanics are obviously important. However in an effort to always get as far upstream of problems, they are frequently the key and are often what I start - or end up - treating. There is often discussion amongst Osteopaths as to how to find the primary problem. Picture the cartoon prisoner with the arrows pointing upwards on the bodysuit. With a large proportion of the people that come to me via the BSSCMD; when I examine them, those arrows are pointing squarely at the maxillae. There is no ambiguity about the primary.

But why is this area such an important one in terms of overall health? I do not think we really know - yet. However I am familiar with the effect on the cranial mechanism of a jammed-up midface. It is sometimes truly an anatomical poison in its system-wide effects. An analogy: the word "sabotage" comes from French factory workers in the early days of the industrial revolution protesting at their often dire conditions. They would make their point by throwing their Sabots into the mechanical machinery. These were heavy wooden clogs and caused havoc. The shuddering and crunching of the gears within the tissues and the miserable patients they belong to are suggestive of this disruption.

There are, within our group and elsewhere, a number of other ideas and explanations as to the potency of this part of the body. If I understood him correctly, Dr Stack made reference to the nuclei of the Vagus nerve in the brainstem being disrupted by aberrant sensory input from pathological TMJ's as a possible cause of Tourettes. What we do know for sure is that a huge amount of human suffering can be alleviated by good work in this area.

I for one am really happy to keep exploring.

Chris Harris BAhons DO MSCC

Osteopath

## **CRANIO SMILE**

## Paraprosdokians

(Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it. 2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you..

But it's still on my list.

3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.5. We never really grow up, we only learn

how to act in public.

6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit . . . Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

8. To steal ideas from one person is

plagiarism. To steal from many is research. 9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, Notify:' I put 'DOCTOR'.

11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

12. You do not need a parachute to skydive.. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

13. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a mechanic.

16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.



# **Caroline Penn DO**

# Osteopathy and occlusion



any dentists, particularly orthodontists, spend a lot of time asking their patients to try to keep their mouths closed when not talking or eating. It is a big dental/ orthodontic issue, alongside encouraging the tongue to work correctly. Dentists are hard-pressed to help patients achieve this and this is where osteopathy can often help.

Why are dentists so bothered about lip seal and the tongue position? Put simply, the way the powerful muscles of the lips, cheeks and tongue work ultimately determines the development and shape of the dental arches, the face and to a large extent how we look. The teeth are simply passengers between these forces so if muscle action provides appropriate osseous growth stimulation then the teeth position will to a very large extent, look after itself. Patients who habitually breathe through their mouth or do not close their mouths and seal their lips respond poorly to orthodontics and the tendency to relapse is high, even when they wear retainers for life.

In this article I share two cases. In the first case the child was not able to close his mouth, the facial muscles remained weak into adulthood and several bouts of orthodontics improved the outcome but did not result in a stable self-maintaining occlusal relationship. The girl in the second case has craniofacial abnormalities and has no orthodontic help, but at nearly 10 years old is, with osteopathy and exercises alone, developing a reasonable occlusion.

#### CASE 1:

The following sequence of photographs shows a boy, we will call him Rob. Anoxia at birth due to a true knot in the umbilical cord caused developmental delay. I have worked intermittently with Rob from 7 to 23 years of age. He was unable to keep his mouth shut when young so has needed a great deal of orthodontic input to achieve a reasonable result, and now as a young man his open mouth is still a problem associated with regression of his occlusion. On a positive note the osteopathyguided early functional orthopaedic/orthodontic input facilitated adequate growth to enable him to avoid tooth extractions. The posteriorly placed upper lateral incisors were able to move into place as the dental arch widened with the two-piece removable acrylic splint (the best solution available at the time). He needed several of these and fixed braces at 17 years; perhaps some of this could have been avoided if an adequate lip seal had been achieved. Now 23 years old, he has to wear retainers and is still suffering the consequences of the open mouth posture.



8 years; narrow palate and crowding. Note cross-bite and upper laterals trapped lingually.



Removable arch expansion appliance



9 years: beginning to correct.



18 years: Open mouth persists

#### CASE 2

A girl who I shall name Kris, was born with Golden Har syndrome. She had craniofacial abnormalities due to failure of the first brachial arch to unite on one side, a dorsal hemi-vertebra resulting in scoliosis and dermoid cysts attached to the cornea which challenged vision. The facial asymmetry was surgically 'tidied up' at one year for aesthetic reasons and was much more challenging to her than the family had anticipated. It was at that time that the parents sought osteopathic help. They reported the benefit of osteopathy to postoperative recovery and assistance dealing with recurrent upper respiratory tract infections. Later the focus was on establishing and maintaining a clear nasal airway, a necessary pre-requisite for mouth closure.

I worked with Kris from 4 years old. Lip seal was extremely challenging. Her tongue was over developed and habitually held between her teeth, and her global muscle tone was low. Through her mother's determined efforts, Kris learnt to suck at 10 months old. From birth she was fed breast milk through a Habenar bottle which provides a milk reservoir to avoid drowning the infant as the parent controls the flow of milk. This type of bottle is particularly suitable for infants with defects of the first brachial arch. Developmentally this is hugely better than tube feeding.

When Kris was 5 years old the osteopathic treatment focussed on working on the postoperative intra-oral scar tissue. Exercises were an important part of this process, encouraging fuller mouth opening and helping to guide the mandibular movements towards symmetry. The family were trained in intra-oral massage as well as mirroring and mental rehearsal exercises made into games. There was and still is a consistent focus on practising efficient sucking, which from the beginning of life paves the way for balanced oral and facial muscle function. Tongue, lips and cheeks



5 Years: Lip closure and tongue control are challenging; mandible deviated to right.



6 Years: Trying to whistle for lip and breath control



7 Years: Mandibular deviation is more obvious when the mouth is closed.

worked well enough for Kris to become quite a chatterbox, although at first only her family could understand her. By 7 years old she was developing intelligible speech, a skill her speech therapist had not expected Kris to acquire.Kris and her family continue to be enthusiastic and compliant to follow the advice given and there continues to be a dynamic interchange of ideas between family and osteopath about how the next challenge might be addressed. Working with the whole body has been especially important, for example initially it was not possible for Kris to slide her mandible to the left, neither was it possible for her to track her eyes horizontally in either direction or to move her tongue to the left. Her body was very right side dominant with a leading right shoulder which exacerbated the hemi-vertebra scoliosis. At first we underplayed mandibular movement and concentrated on working to lead the body with the left side, strengthening all the neuromuscular connections associated with that missing movement. As the scoliosis straightened and the tongue became freer the mandible began to shift to the left. The spinal scoliosis has become straighter without the prescribed orthopaedic spinal brace. Kris found the brace most uncomfortable and it impeded attention to postural body habits. The results for the jaw and occlusion are also encouraging so far. The next challenge for Kris will be to learn to play a wind instrument. I favour the clarinet because it is centrally aligned so is unlikely to influence the scoliosis adversely; it requires excellent lip seal and trains coordination of tongue, lips, cheeks, breathing and posture. Kris is excited at the prospect and with her determination I anticipate she will do it!

For osteopathic purposes, I am particularly impressed by the Myobrace[1] which is an Australian designed orthodontic system of oral muscle train-



7 Years: Closer examination reveals crossbite locking the mandibular deviation

ers. It demonstrates how effective the muscles alone can be in developing a good occlusion. See the pictures below (These are not from my patients).

A very interesting scenario ensued age 7y with Kris's cross-bite. Her deciduous occlusion, particularly her lower left canine, locked her into a cross bite so it was impossible to restore normal occlusal relationships without dental assistance. We began osteopathically guided exercises immediately and sought functional orthodontic consultation. Unfortunately, in Kris's case, Great Ormond Street Hospital did not sanction orthodontic assistance until all permanent teeth had erupted, so we were left to grapple without help to free her.

Finally at age 9.5y the lower left canine came out, which unlocked the cross bite and provided a window of opportunity. We developed new exercises using water swishing and more tongue movements and so far results are encouraging.

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8 Years: Sucking practices muscle and breath control



9 Years: Balancing beanbag for spinal alignment; influences jaw alignment too.

Finally at age 9.5 years lower left deciduous canine is lost, unlocking the crossbite. We developed new exercises using water swishing; and tongue exercises; so far results are encouraging.





Photographs show how the Myobrace system favourably directed growth over a 7 -month period for a 10 year old girl. The August 2014 photos show an overclosed bite, squarely flatted off anteriors (upper incisors) and narrow premolar width with inadequate space for the erupting canines. By March 2015 the shape and relationship of the dental arches improved dramatically with plenty of space for the canines and all achieved using those muscular forces.



One of Kris's goals achieved!

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Dr John Mew[2] wrote extensively about the importance of the closed mouth posture to stimulate horizontal growth of the face rather than the vertical growth pattern encouraged by the open mouth posture. I have seen the effectiveness of John Mew's system of Orthotropics.

Both of these very functional approaches (Myobrace and Orthotropics) depend on the lips being sealed when not talking or biting into food.

To summarise, osteopathy has much to offer to enable and encourage this essential function of closed mouth posture at rest. Working both locally and globally osteopaths can attend to some of the impediments to nose breathing and work with mechanical and neuro-developmental issues that may impede oral function and development.

With thanks to Rob, Kris and family. Also to Dr Doug Rider for the Myobrace photographs.

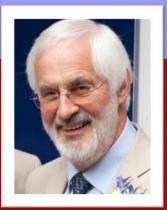
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[1] Myofunctional Analysis and its Role in Dental Assessments and Oral Health 2015 Paula Fabbie, **RDH, BS PennWell Publications** [2] Professor John Mew Orthotropics. http://johnmeworthotropics.co.uk



# **Dr Noel Stimson LDS - Editor**

# Dentistry and Osteopathy



## A: OSTEOPATHY AND SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE:

e know that scientific evidence for osteopathy's effectiveness is regarded as weak. However, there is no scientific evidence of it being harmful. Therefore any views on its efficacy and usefulness from both standpoints (for or against) are simply a matter of opinion. The existence Osteopathy as a health care system for almost 150 years remains in popular demand with patients as well as a number of conventional health care practitioners including those within medicine, dentistry and others.

There are several reasons for the lack of robust science and the consequent variations in opinion:

1. Osteopaths and dentists are normally in daily health care practice treating their patients and therefore do not have the opportunity, the facilities, the resources or the backing required to plan, setup, manage and publish a serious scientific programme. That would have to be the province of major centres of learning, which so far is not yet 'on offer'.

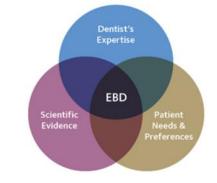
2. Some Hospital Trusts employ osteopaths and provide clinical facilities similar to those provided for physio-therapy.

3. The fact that there is little robust evidence supporting osteopathy does not mean it is worthless, as some have declared.

4. A lack of understanding of what constitutes Evidence Based Healthcare (EBH) as outlined by Helen Jones on page 9:

The American Dental Association defines evidencebased dentistry as: *An approach to oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient's oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist's clinical expertise and the patient's treatment needs and preferences.*"

There is a balanced over-lapping inter-play between science-based evidence, anecdotal evidence and patients' requirements. If robust scientific evidence from the main centres of learning is lacking, then anecdotal evidence (case histories etc.) from clinical practice may be regarded as satisfactory, provided the patient's needs are addressed safely and appropriately.



Helen quotes Professor of Orthodontics Kevin O'Brien who has recently stated online:

"My general feeling is that we should base our treatments on the evidence when it is there. When it is absent, we need to accept that our treatment is based mostly on clinical experience and other sources and we need to explain this to our patients. When we do this we are practicing evidence-based orthodontics."

Logically, these same principles apply to all primary healthcare professions including Osteopathy. While "the absence of evidence is not necessarily evidence of absence", and "it is not possible to prove that something does not happen or exist; all one can say with certainty is that so far we have failed to prove that it does", it is obviously best to have high quality clinical trials to support any treatment modality; no one would deny that. However, this is not always the case and a large number of practitioners are currently being pressured by the use of out-of-date and irrelevant science.

O'Brien brings perspective to the situation when he points out *"we need to explain to our patients"* the scientific validation (or lack of it) for our treatment. Once this is done and the patient accepts it, then evidence-based treatment is being provided.

However, there are those both within and outside the professions who do not understand this. They say their belief is that unless there are randomized clinical trials (RCTs) that prove the efficacy of a particular treatment, then it does not work and the public must be protected from those who would recommend it.

This group of non-believers tends to overlook or ignore the value and significance of the massive amount of anecdotal evidence that comes from clinical practitioners (and upon which all scientific studies are based!) and they seem immune to the needs, preferences and supportive reports from patients, declaring them irrelevant and non-scientific, (unless of course, the patient is a complainant in which case that is a different story!) Most disconcerting of all is the avowed aim of a small group of non-health workers to destroy an entire 150 year-old profession 'to protect the public'. "From what?" one might ask. Since there is no robust scientific evidence of harm or morbidity from osteopathy their only channel is the Advertising Standards Authority using their public protection remit.

The reality is that so long as online (or any other) healthcare advertising makes it clear that the proposed treatment may not be supported by any robust clinical trials, and the patient accepts this by giving their <u>fullyinformed</u> consent, then the issue of evidence-based care is covered as indicated above.

Osteopathy is non-allopathic which means it does not generally rely on prescribing medication. Pills do not create health; often they do little more than address or cover up the symptoms, though they can be very important in supporting the recovery process.

Osteopaths do not claim to treat medical conditions *per se*, but they do assist the healing and recovery process (whether innate or medically assisted) by setting up the right conditions for recovery - a skeletal and neurological system un-impaired by cranial and spinal distortions or imbalances and a pulmonary-cardiovascular system un-impaired by poor posture, poor diet and lack of exercise.

Measuring such changes objectively is virtually impossible which renders the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) somewhat pointless, however desirable they may be.

#### B: DENTISTRY AND TMD – THE HISTORY:

For many decades dentists were taught that the biomechanical aspects of temporomandibular disorders (previously known as "TMJ dysfunction") were caused by a disrupted or dysfunctional occlusion. This implied that only dentists had the skills and the facilities to treat the condition. At first, it was thought that the only treatment necessary was to restore or re-balance the occlusion; this would allow the muscles to normalize again and the problem would be solved.

It soon became apparent that this was not always the ideal solution and that more fundamental changes to the occlusion were required, sometimes by re-positioning the mandible and re-capturing the dislocated disk(s). Whilst a huge improvement, this too was only partly successful until it was realized that maybe the other component of the TM joint, the temporal bone, together with its associated muscles, could be partly responsible. Happily, at about the same time, those practitioners working with the cranial bones came to a similar conclusion - that their cranial manipulations for TMD patients were not always successful and they needed some dental input. So in the early 1990's dentists and cranial workers began to work in concert, and the team approach was born, with a noticeable improvement in anecdotal success rates and patient satisfaction that was universally recognised and acknowledged in spite a few skeptics. Not surprisingly, evidence of success was only recorded anecdotally as 'case histories'.

### C: ORTHODONTICS AND CRANIAL OSTEOPATHY:

In the following decades, many new concepts within dentistry of the causes of malocclusion started to emerge; this led to some fresh thinking. Among them, dysfunctional oral musculature (John Mew and Chris Farrell) and cranial balancing (Gerald Smith, Gavin James and Dennis Strokon) brought new ideas to the world of orthodontics. The former is based on the powerful effect of the oral muscles on the dental structures, the latter on the idea that structural bony anomalies within the cranium (most probably from birth) may cause a mal-relationship between the jaws. Both concepts depend on normalization of the soft tissues and bony structures concerned in order for the treatment to be successful. The reality is that both sets of circumstances often exist jointly and that if any of the causative factors remain unaddressed, then orthodontic relapse is inevitable.

I confess to being deeply offended by the current mainstream advice that 'post-orthodontic retention is for life'. I view this as a gross failure of the orthodontic profession at large to address the causes of malocclusion and not just the symptoms. Imagine how we might view a hip -replacement patient being told "we can <sup>€</sup>ix your arthritic hip OK but you will be on crutches for the rest of your life". Clearly the cranial issues required the assistance of a cranial expert and so a new system of combined cranial work (osteopathy and chiropractic) and orthodontics was created.

It is a curious fact that most patients accept, and to some degree understand, the concept of cranial respiration - the palpable rhythmic movement of the cranial bones that is required to circulate the CSF throughout the closed cranio-sacral system. They also have no difficulty with the notion that cranial bones have flexible connecting sutures between the bones that permit these tiny movements to take place, nor that living (or 'wet' bone) itself has an inherent flexibility and resilience that allows the cranial movements to take place and to be palpated manually.

Conventional health care professionals, on the other hand, have huge difficulty believing that this can be true; this can be explained by their only experience of handling a skull having been in the Anatomy Department while learning about the skeleton. In this situation, the skull bones will be completely desiccated and rigid; totally unlike living bone in character and appearance.

It has been suggested that many of today's 'new' dental issues (such as TMD, cranial distortion, breathing and sleep disorders) have been 'invented' purely to make money. This is simply not the case as well as being grossly insulting. All these recent developments have come from a deeper understanding of inter-connected functionality of the stomatognathic system and the cranium, and indeed with the rest of the body. An understanding that opens up new avenues of treatment that can help many more people for whom conventional dentistry has perhaps been a failure. Osteopathic support and parallel treatment have become an essential part of the overall dental care in many modern practices.

The sad fact that much of this kind of health care falls outside the scope of our ailing NHS does not make it wrong, unreasonable or inappropriate and it certainly does not make it unethical profiteering as some critics have implied.

Mainstream thinking in dentistry and orthodontics is exactly that; middle of the road, looking neither left nor right; ignoring anything unusual or interesting close to the banks of the stream and either totally unaware or pathologically suspicious of what lies round the next bend. The sad reality is that the stream is no longer flowing; worse than stagnant, the stream is now flowing backwards, for the following reasons:

) The merging and loss of a number of dental schools.

) Of the 17 schools that remain only 10 (58%) teach orthodontics at undergraduate level.

) New graduates are expected/required to remain "inside the box" unless they have completed further post-graduate training; in orthodontics, this can take 3 -4 years and cost up to £100,000.

) There has been no significant scientific or technological orthodontic development for years

) The science in use is in general years out of date; 'new' studies are most commonly reviews of earlier work, mainly done prior to today's improved understanding.

J Recent developments in dentally-related health care (breathing disorders, sleep medicine, TMD, etc.) are either ignored or dismissed as irrelevant or unproven.

) The mainstream thinkers are in denial of the proven and inextricable 2-way skeletal, functional and physiological connections between the teeth and the cranium.

If mainstream adherents wish to remain so, then fine, but they should never be allowed to prevent others from trying to advance dentistry and improve patient care with fresh thinking and innovation. Deliberately trying to hold back progress is never a wise move, which in this instance could permanently damage our professions. They also seem to be unaware that all the health care professions are very much alive, with all the natural and dynamic tendencies to develop and change that are essential qualities of all living things.

Those who would attack advancing dental concepts and complementary care appear to do so out of ignorance or fear; ignorance because they do not understand, and fear because they believe their 'world' is being threatened by these new ideas. What saddens me is that their response is to try to stop it happening (for purely selfish reasons) rather than saying "that sounds interesting – I would like to know more about it" and "how can we help to establish its effectiveness?" - for the sake of their patients.



### Dr Gavin James BDS DOrth (Niagara, Ontario)

Strabismus treated by functional orthodontics - a single case



Are there any possible links between strabismus and dentistry?

The 14 year old patient in the following photos came into my office to wait while his sister was being treated (Fig 1 a,b) His mother was aware of my interest in posture and suggested that I might look at Mike. Clearly, there were postural problems. An examination of the face and dentition (Fig 2 a b) showed an Angle Class 1 occlusion but neither the family nor Mike were concerned with the mild dental irregularity. He did have occasional lower back discomfort but otherwise appeared to be a healthy, active individual. The only health concern was strabismus, a condition in which there is difficulty in bringing the eyes into focus on the same object. The bony orbits are out of alignment and there is a tendency for double vision. The brain has to adjust to compensate for this. In a severe case the brain will suppress the vision from one eye, creating temporary or even permanent blindness although the eye itself is functioning normally. In Mike's case a patch over the good eye had been tried to strengthen the activity of the weaker eye but without success. He then had had numerous surgical attempts to resolve the problem by reattachment of extraocular muscles. Again ,this was not successful. The patient can be left with a variety of possible results depending on the body's ability to adapt and the severity of the condition. The difficulties worsen with time.

There may be a hereditary tendency for strabismus but factors such as a difficult birth or subsequent facial trauma are often the cause ( see wikipedia ). Apart from the ocular problems, even a mild strabismus can cause social embarrassment. One eye will wander while the other remains looking straight ahead. There are other difficulties such as in driving or reading. At the time of the original assessment I was not really aware of the specific characteristics of strabismus. Treatment was begun to assist in correction of his postural problems.

In osteopathic terms, Mike had a right torsion, in which both the ocular and lateral occlusal planes run up to the right. Pretreatment tests suggested that correction of the occlusal cant would help with Mike's posture. ALF appliances were used successfully to level the lateral occlusal plane(Fig 5) with subsequent improvement in his posture(Fig 6 a b ) What was not anticipated was a steady lessening of the strabismus as the orthodontic treatment progressed. Mike's opthalmologist was monitoring him throughout this time and reported an almost complete recovery of normal vision.

One successful case does not justify claiming that orthodontic intervention can resolve strabismus. There are far too many variables involved. What it does do is raise a whole series of questions. Answers might start by looking to see if strabismus patients as a group have displacement of the bony orbits similar to Mike. Appropriate manipulation by osteopaths in infants has been shown to be effective in correction of various ocular disturbances including strabismus. Even in adults ,especially after trauma, such manipulation may resolve the condition. Whether orthodontic intervention can help is therefore an open question. Experience with Mike suggests that it would be worth exploring.

**ORTHO-CRANIAL** 

### Visit: the BSSCMD's new website at <www.jawache.com >



Fig 1a



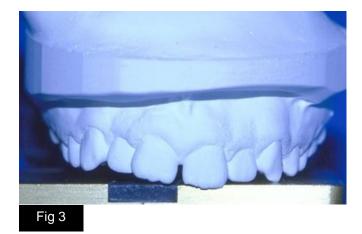


Fig 1b



Fig 2b

14 year old boy presenting with postural problems, a mild Class I malocclusion and strabismus.



Right superior maxillary cant evident on model and A-P radiograph.



Fig 4



Upper and lower ALF appliances with lower occlusal 'lift' on the left.

Resulting facial balance with almost complete recovery of the strabismus.



### **Roger L Price - Respiratory Physiologist and Integrative Health educator**

# **Sleep disorders another perspective**



Article first published in the Journal of Lung, Pulmonary and Respiratory Research, Vol 2 Issue 4, April 2015

#### Abstract

SLEEP DISORDERS

leep disorders are usually multi-factorial in nature, very often without a single solution available. As with many interventive processes there are unanticipated and iatrogenic consequences, which cause further complications and more intervention is then required. Sufficient evidence now exists to indicate that prevention of the onset of the symptoms, which are often referred to as 'the disease', can minimize or even eliminate the need for intervention. It is not possible for a person to have functional breathing during the day and dysfunctional breathing during the night, any more than it is to have the reverse situation. Given that the vast majority of people spend approximately two thirds of their lives awake and active, there is a significant likelihood that addressing daytime dysfunction is at least as important as, if not more important than, applying short - term night time intervention.

### Introduction and Commentary

In this era of 'spin', selective reporting of fact, and downright untruths, it is difficult to know exactly what or who to believe. The fact is that the so called "Health System" really has very little to do with health, but is rather a professionally managed, obscenely profitable business, based on "Disease Creation and Management" [1]. It is sad that human nature is such that when an opportunity is created to 'scam' or 'game' a system, there is no shortage of opportunists ready to cash in on ignorance, fear or distress. When we see regular examples of how the true results of clinical trials have been manipulated, selectively reported, and sometimes even totally obscured, in order to present a favorable commercial outcome [2], it is no wonder that a healthy degree of cynicism prevails in the sector of the profession that is more concerned with Outcome than Income.

Sleep Disorders are usually complex mixtures of various compromises, compensations, para functions and dysfunctions- all ending up in a situation where health is compromised through lack of quality sleep. Given this complexity in etiology, it is unlikely that the offer of quick solutions has much validity.

Similarly, the current rash of offers of becoming an "expert in sleep dentistry" after an expensive 2 day weekend, have to be looked at askance - and closer examination of some of the processes involved, show a distinct bias towards exploiting loopholes in the legislation and insurance billing [3], where the focus is on fitting as many oral appliances as possible - irrespective of whether they are appropriate, or actually address the sleep disorder effectively. So based on the above, one does not need a long stretch of the imagination to see how the following could well apply to many of the 'truths' that are currently being paraded as the answer to all Sleep Disorders and other comorbid conditions.

"tell a lie, loudly and often enough, and it becomes the truth" attributed to both Lenin and Goebbels; "if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail" from Abraham Maslow's 'The Psychology of Science' 1966

### **Generally Accepted Standards and Guidelines**

So let us look at the Gold Standards, Best Practice and Evidence Based practices currently in use today. The industry is rife with many TLAs (three letter acronyms), the majority of which have ZERO empirical value, and, at best, are nothing more than useful indicators of change. Again however, the fact that a 'number' exists, even if, like the BMI, it bears NO resemblance to the individual - but is rather an indicator of a group tendency - it is still used as an empirical diagnostic icon in the determination of a condition. Similarly, names given to conditions, or groups of symptoms, take on a life of their own, and, through repetition and reinforcement, become the

'buzzwords' of the industry - without actually meaning much. Furthermore, there is the temptation to 'grab

- bag' symptoms into neat and tidy definitions, which, through usage, become non - defining definitions. An example here is the use of the word 'flu to describe everything from a minor sore throat, or a mild cold virus-right up to life threatening influenza. Let us examine the term SDB- Sleep Disordered Breathing used as a grab - bag for anything to do with sleep and breathing. What does it actually mean? What is Sleep – Disordered - Breathing?

### **American Thoracic Society Definition**

Sleep-disordered breathing is an umbrella term for several chronic conditions in which partial or complete cessation of breathing occurs many times throughout the night, resulting in daytime sleepiness or fatigue that interferes with a person's ability to function and reduces quality of life.

#### Medicine.net

Sleep-disordered breathing: A condition characterized by repeated episodes of hypopnea (under breathing) and apnea (not breathing) during sleep. A significant proportion of adults are thought to experience sleep-disordered breathing.

### **Cleveland Clinic**

SDB comprises a wide spectrum of sleep-related breathing abnormalities; those related to upper airway resistance include snoring, upper airway resistance syndrome (UARS) and obstructive sleep apnea-hypopnea syndrome (OSAHS).

### Resmed

Many clinicians regard SDB as a spectrum of diseases characterized by:

a) Abnormal respiratory patterns (e.g. the presence of apneas or hypopneas);

b) Insufficient ventilation during sleep

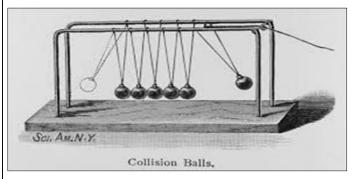
There doesn't seem to be a sufficient commonality in the above definitions to be able to zero in on what causes the actual problem - so the only option available is to use short-term intervention to attempt to manage the symptoms when they occur-usually during the night. If, on the other hand, one was to look at the non-sleep behavior the 16-18 hours a day when the patient is awake, working, driving, eating etc. does it not make sense to examine this behavior to see if what they are doing - for three

times the amount of time that they are in bed - can influence their condition to a greater extent than the few hours they're trying to sleep?

This is why there is so much validity in the concept of Breathing Disordered Sleep (BDS) as the etiology of the problem - rather than the other way round? There is no doubt that there are millions of people suffering from Sleep Disorders, and that only a very small percentage is being reported and successfully treated and it is beyond important that we try to understand why this is so. This is a multi-billion dollar industry which, by its own reporting, is perhaps addressing less than 10% of the suspected cases of Sleep Disorders. One doesn't have to be a genius to see the disproportionate benefit, or lack thereof, in such vast amounts of money being spent on so small a segment of the market. What is of even greater concern is the abysmally low compliance rate of these devices and the actual cost per successful patient outcome is staggering.

Breathing is a mainstream function - Why then should Breathing Retraining be regarded as Complementary or Alternative?

### Breathing Disordered Sleep - Cause and Effect



Where better to find the etiology than in the simple Newtonian Third Law of Motion? Because "every action has an equal and opposite reaction" it is not a long bow to draw between linking daytime dysfunction to nighttime consequences. The perennial complaint in the sleep industry is lack of compliance. So serious is this issue that the term 'compliance' has been watered down to mean far less than its actual description. The Medicare definition of CPAP compliance is

"equal to or greater than 4 hours per night for 70% of nights in a consecutive 30 day period."

So the question arises. "Why is compliance so poor?" It is hard to believe that people with a serious

sleep disorder would not *want* something to alleviate their condition - so why is it so difficult to get them to comply? The answer could be much simpler than is widely believed - and the explanation that follows might shed some light on this perplexing problem.

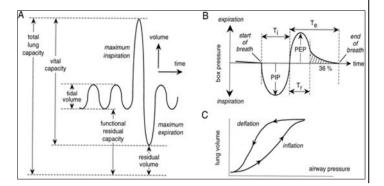
#### Explanation

Breathing is triggered by a sensor in the medulla portion of the brainstem that responds to both pH shift and the arterial pressure of CO2. The majority of textbooks on this subject admit that the mechanism is not fully understood, but it is widely accepted that an increase in CO2 levels is what stimulates breathing. Does it not then stand to reason that if the brainstem becomes hyper- responsive to the pH/CO2 trigger, that breathing will be initiated earlier than 'normal'?

### Hyperventilation-http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ medlineplus/ency/article/003071.html

Hyperventilation is rapid or deep breathing that can occur with anxiety or panic. It is also called over breathing, and it may leave you feeling breathless. You breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Excessive breathing creates low levels of carbon dioxide in your blood. This causes many of the symptoms of hyperventilation.

Given that Hyperventilation is an accepted medical diagnosis, can become a serious chronic condition, and can lead to the re- setting of the brainstem response, is it not possible that a sudden reduction in breathing rate-such as caused by CPAP or some Oral Appliances, could result in a spike in PaCO2? This would then cause the breathing rate to rise-which is not permitted by the machine and mask-and be one of the reasons that patients experience a 'panic, claustrophobic or drowning' feeling, and have to remove the intervention? This mechanism will be discussed in greater detail later. Absent the fact that there is no such thing as *normal breathing* - the best we can rely on is a scientifically calculated formula for 'optimal breathing at rest'. Obviously, breathing changes all the time, to address function and effort, but measure-



ment at rest gives us a fairly accurate baseline from which to evaluate functional efficiency.

### Breathing is a mainstream function – Why then should Breathing Retraining be regarded as Complementary or Alternative?

- i. **Minute Volume (MV)**, The volume of air inhaled and exhaled in one minute.
- Respiratory Rate (RR) (also referred to as breaths per minute), The number of inhalation/ exhalation cycles in one minute.
- iii **Tidal volume (TV)** about 500 mL, is the amount of air inspired during normal, relaxed breathing.
- iv. **Inspiratory reserve volume (IRV)**, about 3,100 mL, is the additional air that can be forcibly inhaled after the inspiration of a normal tidal volume.
- v. **Expiratory reserve volume (ERV)**, about 1,200 mL, is the additional air that can be forcibly exhaled after the expiration of a normal tidal volume.
- vi. **Residual volume (RV)**, about 1,200 mL, is the volume of air still remaining in the lungs after the expiratory reserve volume is exhaled.
- vii. Summing specific lung volumes produces the following lung capacities: Total lung capacity (TLC), about 6,000 mL, is the maximum amount of air that can fill the lungs (TLC = TV + IRV + ERV + RV).
- viii. Vital capacity (VC), about 4,800 mL, is the total amount of air that can be expired after fully inhaling (VC = TV + IRV+ ERV = approximately 80 percent TLC). The value varies according to age and body size.
- ix. Inspiratory capacity (IC), about 3,600 mL, is the maximum amount of air that can be inspired (IC=TV+IRV).
- x. Functional residual capacity (FRC), about 2,400mL is the amount of air remaining in the lungs after a normal expiration (FRC=RV+ERV).

Some of the air in the lungs does not participate in gas exchange; this air is located in the anatomical dead space within bronchi and bronchioles - that is, outside the alveoli. By using the above information we can arrive at what constitutes functional breathing at rest - and that can be summarized in a few lines:

- 1. 8-10 breaths per minute
- 2. 4-5 litres of air per minute
- 3. In and out through the nose
- 4. Driven by the diaphragm
- 5. Silent

When a person breathes at this rate the ETCO2 (end tidal CO2) reaches approximately 40mm Hg pressure, there is sufficient buffer available for the pH in the respiratory system to move between 7.35 and 7.45, oxygen transport and release is optimal, and smooth muscle systems in the body are relaxed. At 40mm Hg PaCO2 the brainstem response maintains this rhythm. What then happens when people breathe dysfunctionally? They breathe more air per breath, more breaths per minute, start to use mouth and chest instead of nose and diaphragm, and reduce their ETCO2. This alters the respiratory pH - resulting in a tendency towards more alkalinity and as a consequence, the release of oxygen from haemoglobin is reduced (the Bohr Effect). Concurrently, as a compensatory defense mechanism against further loss of CO2, bronchoconstriction occurs—prompting even more labored breathing. Should the reduction in CO2 loss not be sufficient, the next line of defense is a breath -hold or apnoea, to rapidly increase ETCO2 and therefore PaCO2.

This is done to ensure the ongoing supply of oxygen to the brain and the rest of the body. Ironically - an apnea is nature's way of protecting the body - not harming it. Many doctors totally refute the idea that it is possible to reprogram the brainstem response - and demand scientific proof to support this assertion. They furthermore claim that breathing is a totally automatic response and, as such, cannot be changed. If it is not possible to change the brainstem response why then do babies, born as obligate nasal breathers, develop into mouth breathers in a short space of time?

Why is it that functional minute volume, long held to be around 6 liters per minute, is now regarded as being 'normal' at 12 liters per minute? If this is not indicative of a change in the brainstem breathing response - what is?

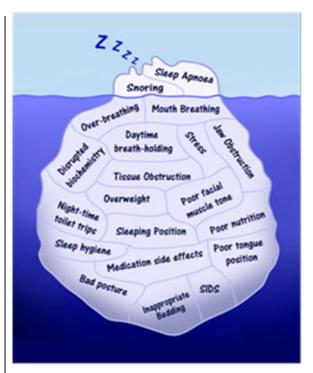
The reality is that the brainstem response IS subject to reprogramming - just as much as so many other body functions alter in the face of long term dysfunctional behavior. In summary, Breathing Disordered Sleep is based on the following premises:

1.Long-term stress and dysfunction causes hyperventilation.

2.Hyperventilation increases brainstem response to CO2 and is a known precursor to many sleep disorders, especially central sleep apnea.

3.Rapidly moving someone from hypocapnia to normocapnia or even hypercapnia, provokes an instantaneous response and an automatic reaction to remove the source of interference.

4.By addressing daytime dysfunction and parafunction, and by retraining the brainstem response to be less reactive to CO2, it is possible to reduce the onslaught effect of CPAP and /or OAT, make



them easier to adapt to and therefore achieve better compliance with less stress and emotional trauma.

5.Simple common sense should show that it is more likely that 16-18 hours of dysfunctional behavior during the day has the potential to influence night time breathing more than 6-8 hours of night time dysfunction has the potential to disrupt daytime balance.

6.It is not possible for breathing to be functional during the day and not at night any more than the reverse case.

#### **The Iceberg Analogy**

The 10% of the iceberg that is visible is not what represents the danger; it is the 90% hidden below the surface that will sink ships. The diagram below indicates the ratio of symptoms to aetiology, and if one takes into consideration the billions od dollars expended on above-the-line intervention

30 Patients selected randomly from files

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against the almost negligible focus on the below-theline causes or exacerbatory factors, it is no wonder that the problems remain unresolved to the extent that they are.

Therefore addressing the 'below-the-line' issues such as posture, breathing mechanics, nutrition, stress and the rest of the co-factors - would go a long way in providing a more comfortable, acceptable and stable outcome - with far greater compliance.

Ignoring the presence of these multiple factors will result in being confined to short-term night-time intervention.

Handling such multi-factorial issues requires the involvement of a trained team of therapists, working in conjunction, to get the required result.

### Conclusion

Just because something is being done by a lot of people doesn't necessarily mean that this is the best or most successful way of doing things. Change is challenging - especially when there is pessure from commercial interests to maintain their bottom line by insisting on selling equipment and appliances - even when common sense indicates that there are better alternatives. So, based on the research papers attached - which show conclusively that restoring normocapnia will reverse CSA - does it not make sense to change breathing behavior to prevent the loss of the CO2 in the first place - through over breathing?

Prof. Peter C Gay is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mayo College of Medicine in Rochester, MN. He has been a consultant in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine since 1988 and after receiving all of his training at Mayo, he obtained board certification in all of these subspecialties. He is now President of NAMDRC, Vice-Chair of the ACCP Home Care Network. A delegate to the ACCP Sleep Institute. He states the following:

"The pathophysiology is a combination of factors which involve the brain, the heart and lungs. A key factor is enhanced chemoreceptor responses-the degree to which you hyperventilate, in response to hypoxia and hypercapnia.

A characteristic feature of CSA is hyperventilation, which is where it has its parallels with altitude sickness. The difference is that in altitude sickness it's hypoxia that is the primary factor driving hyperventilation and hypocapnia is a consequence of that. In heart failure there's increased ventilation due to a number of factors including the fact that the lungs are wet and receptors in the lungs are sending nerve signals to the respiratory control centers in the brainstem to cause hyperventilation. In healthy individuals carbon dioxide levels normally rise during sleep. If we go to sleep with a low CO2 level below a certain value (the apnea threshold') breathing will be inhibited and reduce or even stop until the CO2 rises, when breathing resumes.

It is common in patients with heart failure, and healthy individuals at altitude, for hyperventilation and the resultant hypocapnia to make breathing unstable during sleep. In patients with heart failure and sleep -disordered breathing, breathing is made more unstable as the prolongation of circulation time means that the effects of blood gas changes in the periphery take longer to reach the brainstem where control of breathing occurs."

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SUMMER 2008         (No 41)         (17/1)           CRANIAL STRAIN AND MALOCCLUSION PART V         - INFERIOR           VERTICAL STRAIN by Dr Gavin James and Dr Dennis Strokon         ORTHODONTICS WITHOUT EXTRACTIONS AND THE ALF	"THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT STATES OF ORAL OCCLU- SION ON STRENGTH, BALANCE AND MUSCLE FUNCTION" by Paul Willoughby BSc
APPLIANCE by Dr Hugh McDermott	WINTER 2011-12 (No 48) (21/1)
AREA CENTROID ANALYSIS OF CRANIOFAVIAL GROWTH by Dr Michael Trenouth INFORMED CONSENT AND THE GDC	"HOMEOBLOCK APPLIANCE - THEODORE BALFOUR" a course report by Amir Kamburov BDS "ORTHODONTICS IN A QUANTUM WORLD - IV: BALANCE
	POSTURE AND ORAL FUNCTION". by Dr Gavin James MDS
WINTER 2008-9 (No 42) (17/2) CRANIAL STRAIN AND MALOCCLUSION PART VI—TORSION by Dr Gavin James and Dr Dennis Strokon INTEGRATED MEDICINE VIEWS BODILY FUNCTION FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE by Dr Gerald Smith PAIN RELIEF THROUGH LEARNING - A CONTROLLED CLINI-	FDS DOrth. "HABITS ETC. AND OROFACIAL DYSKINESIA" by Dr W Entrup DDS "AN OSTEOPATHIC COMPARISON OF THE ALF AND BIOBLOC APPROACH" by Dr Tasha Turzo DO
CAL TRIAL contributed by Susan Cheek MSTAT CASE HISTORY Dr Granville Langly-Smith CLINICAL THERMOGRAPHY - AN OVERVIEW by Noel Stimson	SUMMER 2012 (No 49 - 20th Anniversary issue) (21/2) "14th FACIAL GROWTH GUIDANCE SYMPOSIUM" report by Dr Helen Jones. "MY JOURNEY FROM ORTHODONTICS TO CRANIO-FACIAL
	PAIN AND TMJ TO MOVEMENT DISORDERS" by Dr Brendan
SUMMER 2009 (No 43) (18/1) CRANIAL STRAIN AND MALOCCLUSION PART VII—SIDEBEND Part 1: by Dr Gavin James MDS FDS and Dr Dennis Strokon DDS CHIROPRACTIC AND DENTISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY By Dr Charles Blum DC CSCP AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO THE ALEXANDER	Stack DDS MS "CRANIO FORUM - ORTHODONTIC DIAGNOSIS: Cranial v Oral Posture: featuring Gavin James and John Mew "THE UNIVERSAL/DIGESTIVE JAW" by Dr Wilhelm Entrup DDS "WHY CRANIAL?" by Dr Jim Jecmen DDS
TECHNIQUE by Gitte Fjordbo MA MDFLAT SEP DITI IN SPORTS MEDICINE AND MUSCULOSKEL;ETAL DISOR- DERS (Advertorial)	WINTER 2012-13 (No 50) (22/1) "THE LIMITATIONS OF THE ANGLE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM" Viewpoint by Dr Noel Stimson. "THE INFLUENCE OF CLASP DESIGN ON TWIN BLOCK APPLI-
	ANCE OUTCOME" by Dr Michael Trenouth.
WINTER 2009-10 (No 44) (18/2) CRANIAL STRAIN AND MALOCCLUSION PART VII—SIDEBEND Part 2: by Dr Gavin James MDS FDS and Dr Dennis Strokon DDS	"PARKINSON'S DISEASE; ARE SOME CASES MIS-DIAGNOSED CMD?" by Dr Dwight Jennings.
CRANIAL STRAIN AND MALOCCLUSION— REVIEW OF THE SERIES: by Dr Gavin James MDS FDS and Dr Dennis Strokon DDS ASSESSING THE NEED FOR DENTAL-CHIROPRACTIC TMJ CO -TREATMENT: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PREDICTIVE IN- STRUMENT. Dr Charles Blum DC CSCP	SUMMER 2013 (No 51) (22/2) "ORAL APPLIANCES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TEMPORO- MANDIBULAR DISORDERS" Dr G Klasser and Dr C Greene "TAKING INHIBITION ONTO THE ROADS - Alexander Technique and Advanced Driving." Dr Barry Collins

### **CRANIO VIEW ARTICLE LIST (cont.)**

WINTER 2013-14 (No 52)

- (23/1) "CRANIO FORUM - PART 2" Gavin James and John . Mew
- "STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT CROOKED TEETH" Derek
- Mahony and Kent Lauson "THE EFFECTS OF BICUSPID EXTRACTION ORTHO-DONTICS ON TMJ DYSFUNCTION" Eugene Covey (re-
- print)

### CHANGED TO "CRANIO UK"

SUMMER 2014	(Cranio UK issue No 1)	WINTER 2016	(Cranio UK issue No 4)		
<ul> <li>SINGING FOR SNORER</li> </ul>	S - Interview with Alise Ojay	J "TMD AND HEADACHE	S" - by Patrick Grossmann; originally		
<ul> <li>EXETER UNIVERSITY - improve snoring</li> </ul>	2 studies on singing exercises to	published in the BASH jo	ournal		
<ul> <li>MALOCCLUSION AND A Dr Brian Rothbart PhD</li> </ul>	BNORMAL FOOT MOTION -	) "OCCLUSAL WEAR AS by Gavin James	A DIAGNOSTIC INDICATOR" -		
	PROVIDES SUPERIOR ORTHO- by Dr Gerald Smith DDS		URSULA'S STORY" - A RE- N CASE by Granville Langly-Smith		
<ul> <li>THE BRAIN, THE MIND / Dr Joanna Wildy DO</li> </ul>	AND THE OSTEOPATH - by		RACHEL'S STORY" - THE CONSE- CTIVE ORTHODONTICS:		
		submitted by John Page www.therighttogrow.com			
WINTER 2015	(Cranio UK issue No 2)				
DEMONSTRATING CRA	ANIAL CHANGES WITH DITI				
<ul> <li>by Dr Gerald Smith D</li> </ul>	DS	SUMMER 2016	(Cranio UK issue No 5)		
<ul> <li>CASE HISTORY #1: AN avoid jaw surgery' by Dr</li> </ul>	ITERIOR OPEN BITE or 'How to Victoria Jones BDS	(MYOFUNCTION, SLEEP I SPECIAL EDITION)	DISORDERS AND OSTEOPATHY		
	TRADITIONAL ORTHO THE SAME " plus personal case history by lan	QUESTIONING ORTHODONTICS - Dr Chris Farrell			
	Y 12 YEAR SEARCH FOR POSTERIOR TONGUE TIE" DMT	<ul> <li>REPORT ON TWO STUDIES - Editor</li> <li>OROFACIAL MYOFUNCTION - Dr Tony O'Connor</li> </ul>			
THE HIPPOCRATIC OA	тн	AN OSTEOPATHIC PER	RSPECTIVE - Dr Chris Harris		
10 ORTHODONTIC COO	CHRANE REVIEWS	OSTEOPATHY AND OC	CCLUSION - Dr Caroline Penn		
		DENTISTRY AND OSTE	EOPATHY - Dr Noel Stimson		
SUMMER 2015	(Cranio UK issue No 3)	STRABISMUS TREATE     ORTHODONTICS - Dr			
<ul> <li>CASE HISTORY #1: "A POSTURAL ASYMMET</li> </ul>	LF CORRECTION OF FACIAL AND 'RY" Dennis Strokon	<ul> <li>SLEEP DISORDERS - Roger Price</li> </ul>	ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE -		
<ul> <li>CASE HISTORY #2: "A TREATMENT" Victoria</li> </ul>	CHALLENGING CLASS TWO RE- Jones				
<ul> <li>CASE HISTORY #3: "1 TOURETTES" Andre H</li> </ul>	MD MANAGEMENT FOR ledger				

. "SLEEP APNOEA AND DYSFUNCTIONAL BREATHING" by

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