



A Funny Thing Happened In Warner Robins Georgia!

Last Friday I had a great experience. I have a patient by the name of Dr. Matt Dixon. Some PRC therapists know Dr. Dixon since the Interdisciplinary Integration course last April. He is an optometrist and he and I went to hear Dr. Heidi Wise speak on visual integration. Some might say I dragged him there! It was there that he met several members of the PRI subculture. Dr. Dixon also met Dr. Mike Hoefs who took a quick look at Matt for me and spoke of a need to modify his bite.

Well, I started getting interested and naturally I wanted to make the wheels turn faster. To make a long story short I set it up for Dr. Hoefs to come on down to beautiful Warner Robins, GA and work with my orthodontist, Dr. Gary Pool, who is also a patient of mine and a PRI enthusiast. We met on Friday August 12th and worked on Matt. Imagine four clinicians: a dentist, an orthodontist, a physical therapist and an optometrist, all interested in interdisciplinary integration spending a Friday in an empty orthodontists' office working together. It was great!

Dr. Hoefs was a gem. He explained and showed Dr. Pool and me what he knew about Dr. Dixon's mandibular/maxillary relationship and I applied it to my physical therapy world as Dr. Pool applied it to his orthodontic world. From there he helped us understand what treatment techniques were appropriate, how to adjust appliances and what to expect as we progress from the initial phases of his program to later down the road. Dr. Dixon is now in an ALF splint and as of today is reporting reduced symptoms!

I am writing this as a means to motivate those of you who wish to become more fluent in understanding the TMCC as it relates to dentistry, splinting and bracing. Course work is great and attending classes taught by the PRI faculty is great but another facet to your learning may be to do what I did and get Dr. Hoefs to come and train you or your dentist or orthodontist. I know he is willing to do it. All you have to do is set it up with him.

I am very grateful to Ron Hruska for having the vision to get us all thinking out of the box when it comes to biomechanics and when it comes to interdisciplinary integration. I sure wouldn't have gotten this far on my own. And as for Dr. Hoefs; Thanks for the consulting work my friend.

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