



Dr. Aaron Hoo – Trigeminal Neuralgia Testimonial.

January 2010 – Vancouver BC.

In July 2009, my fiancée was diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia, a very painful nerve disorder. For anyone who has had the unfortunate luck of being around a patient with this disorder can attest to the pain it causes. The unspeakable pain that the patient feels shooting through their face, the feeling of helplessness as you watch your loved one go through this.

Appointment after appointment, we drove all over the city seeing doctors and specialists alike. With little hope for a cure and an army of prescriptions (some of the most zombie-like medications I have ever seen), I felt like she had some terminal illness. It was the worst time of my life watching her eat those pills so that she could get so drowsy and fall asleep; at long last, the only time she was pain free. How long did she need to take these meds? A week or two? Try the rest of her life (or at least when the uncontrollable and untamable spasms occur)!

I cannot fit into enough words how the both of us were feeling. Lower than rock bottom and with not a sliver of light at the end of the tunnel...until we walked into your office.

Dr Hoo, I have never been through anything like this and as I said it was the worst I have ever felt. Your calm demeanor, your genuine interest and unwavering support was immediately recognized and for the first time in days we both breathed a very small sigh of relief. Could it be, someone who cares? Someone that is not in a cold gray office covered in diplomas, degrees, etc, wearing their bulletproof white lab coat as they sign away my fiancée's thoughts into some bottle of pills that she needs forever! That moment alone was worth the visit.

You promised that there were no guarantees for a cure. You stated that you will do all you can for her. You walked me through the therapy as I hovered over you watching the pins go in. You took your time with me, answered all of my questions, and let me feel that we were actually doing something about this. In short Dr Hoo, you gave us hope.

Your therapy had immediate results, which I documented in our journal. As we continued with the visits you began to alter your prognosis to match the symptoms that were

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starting to reduce. A miracle? Probably not, but it sure felt like one. And then you called me at home.

This phone call was one of the best (if not the best) I have ever received. You phoned us on a day in between our sessions to let us know some information you just found out. Upon talking with a colleague of yours (a dental surgeon) you called to tell us that from the description of her symptoms as well as the path that her pain took, it would be worth a second trip at the dentist. The dentist, I asked myself? Due to a root canal she had two weeks prior, combined with the newly swollen lymph nodes, you recommended that we get additional x-rays taken to see if it was an acute infection in there. See doctor, it's not that you were right or wrong, it's the fact that you called us at home. You could have waited to see us next, or even disregarded your colleague's idea until you performed a check up, but you didn't. You called us right away, above and beyond your appointed duty. I have never felt so good about a "maybe" in my whole life. Thank you again for calling as your advice was great! An infection showed up on the dentist's x-ray. Antibiotics were prescribed and the swelling and pain decreased almost immediately.

Although the antibiotics were the final say in this situation and although it is possible that she may not have TN at all (and that it was just a tooth/root infection), you were the real cure Dr Hoo. You gave us strength and hope when we needed it most. You allowed us to feel like we had a shot at beating this.

I hope that more professionals could act like you in time like that. You really made a difference in our lives and we will never forget you for that. Please feel free to use any or all of this letter as a testimonial because I would be happy to help other people feel as comfortable with you as I do now.

Thanks again,

MZ and YL

PS – The MRI test came back negative! Looks like a tooth infection after all 😊

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