



Waterford/Clarkston Office
4152 Sashabaw Rd.
Waterford, MI 48329
248-673-0505
Fax 248-673-8803

WRIGHT & ZELAZNY
D.D.S., P.C.
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
www.wzdds.com

Bloomfield Hills Office
43700 Woodward Ave.
Suite 204
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
248-338-4140
Fax 248-338-8438

Observations from Dr. Z

Isn't faith an interesting thing? One of my wife Michelle's favorite quotes, which she has pasted to her computer, reads, "*Faith means believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse.*" While sometimes this means only that I *do* have faith that the computer will stop giving *me* problems, often it means much more than that. Several things come to mind in my life that make this quote hit home so much for me.

As many of you know, my wife Michelle and I have two beautiful children, both adopted internationally. My son Andrew was born in Kazakhstan, and my daughter Tessa was born in Korea. While the "labor" for these "deliveries" does not involve physical pain, it does involve a fair amount of "emotional pain" over many months. During this process, you deal with *three* governments; our state government, our national government, and also the government of a foreign country. Need I say more? We often asked ourselves, "Is this worth it?" The answer was always, "Someday we will look back at all of this and understand." Now we have finished with the process and can look back and say, "We're glad we had faith that this would work out." While there are always challenges raising young children, we now understand that these are the children for us, and we are the parents for them! We're glad we had faith in the process.

Also, as many of you know, Dr. Dave and I now have a second office in Bloomfield Hills. Many years went into the process of finding this practice. Along the way, we looked at many other practices and came close to acquiring several. We were saddened by our encounters with environmental concerns, unethical behavior, and other issues that doomed these deals. Many times, Dave and I wondered if it was worth it. We kept telling ourselves, "If it is meant to happen, it will." Guess what?! It happened. We now are enjoying the many lovely patients and staff of Dr. Tom Sullivan's practice, which we acquired last fall. We have also been able to do this while still maintaining our current hours and wonderful staff at our Waterford office. Many of our "Waterford patients" are now seen in Bloomfield Hills, which is closer for them. Also, many of Dr. Sullivan's former patients see us in Waterford, as this is closer for them. This wonderful convenience for our patients would not have been possible had we purchased one of the other offices we considered. It *made sense* that we ended up with *this* practice.

This story wasn't over yet, though. I have met many wonderful patients at our Bloomfield office, some of whom I actually already know. As I love travel, I was talking with a new patient about recent travels. This lady mentioned she had recently been to Vietnam, Cambodia, and several other "off the beaten path" places. I asked her what she did for a living. She mentioned she ran an international adoption agency. I asked which one. She was the owner of the agency we used to adopt our wonderful daughter, Tessa. She laughed and said to me, "I guess if I could place a child with you, you can look at my teeth." *Faith means believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse!*

*"Faith means
believing in advance
what only makes
sense in reverse."*

Produced for the
patients of
**David A. Wright,
D.D.S. &
Donald J. Zelazny,
D.D.S.**

Fall 2006

DENTAL TEAM

Office Managers:

Julie
Mandy

Receptionists:

Barb
Charlene

Hygienists:

Karen
Mary
Jennifer
Stephanie
Michele
Angela
Amy
Jeanette

Dental Assistants:

Angee
Pettisha
Patti
Krista
Nicole
Corrine

Thank you for all your referrals. We appreciate them!

Not staying up with the Joneses

Or, why your child doesn't need braces just yet

At least once a week I have a concerned parent in my office wondering why their child doesn't have braces yet since "many of their friends already have them." This is a very understandable concern; the timing of orthodontics has a lot to do with the success of the treatment.

What confuses the issue is that there are two different categories of orthodontic treatment: *regular (conventional) treatment* and *early treatment*.

Regular, or conventional treatment, usually takes place around 11 to 13 years of age for girls and 12 to 14 years for boys. In most cases, the "baby teeth" are gone when treatment starts, and the "second molars" (the teeth the farthest back, other than the wisdom teeth) have erupted or are nearly in. There are exceptions, of course. In some cases, such as someone who is developing a very strong lower jaw (think of Jay Leno or Christi Brinkley), we may wait much later to treat the problem. But these age ranges are accurate for most kids.

Early treatment can take place anywhere from 5 or 6 through 10 or 11 years of age. In most cases, this treatment is only done when it cannot be done as well later at the "conventional" time. Nearly all children who have early treatment still need the "conventional" treatment later.

Why is this? It is because early treatment most frequently is aimed at orthopedic, or skeletal, changes. This includes expanding upper jaws when there is a crossbite and encouraging lower jaws to grow forward more than they otherwise would. For instance, if a crossbite is not taken care of early, the lower jaw will permanently grow irregularly off to one side. This can only be corrected surgically at a later date. In this case, a little prevention properly timed saves costly problems

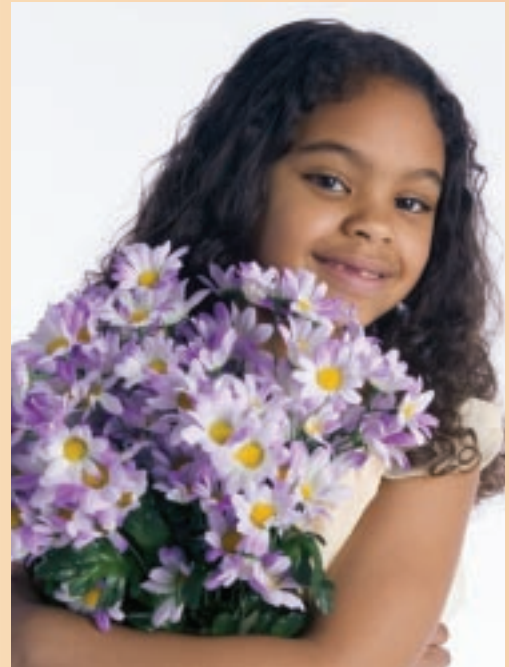


later. Since it costs parents more to do two phases of treatment than one phase, we try to limit this early treatment to those times when it is absolutely necessary.

There are dental and orthodontic offices where too many kids receive early treatment. While this probably doesn't harm the child, it is costly and forces the child to be in treatment far longer than is necessary. According to a landmark study from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry's Orthodontic Chair, Dr. Lyle Johnson, published about four years ago, about 15 to 20 percent of kids need this important treatment. That is consistent with our findings.

When your child is in for his or her six-month checkup, orthodontic timing and needs are two of the things we will evaluate. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have about this important treatment as they occur to you. Thank you for letting us care for you and your family!

Dr. Dave



There are dental and orthodontic offices where too many kids receive early treatment. While this probably doesn't harm the child, it is costly and forces the child to be in treatment far longer than is necessary.

OF THOSE UTAH TRIPS...

Perhaps in the past two years you have tried to schedule an appointment, only to have one of our front-deskers say, “Oh, I’m sorry, Dr. Wright will be in Utah that week for some continuing education.” I am sure that the first thing you thought of was “BOONDOGGLE! Yeh, continuing education my left toe!”

Yes, I am aware that Utah has outstanding skiing and fantastic hiking. And yes, I admit that those are two of my fondest pastimes. But believe it or not, the Utah thing is legit!

Four years ago, both Don and I were approached to become “mentors” for Dr. Gordon Christensen’s hands-on, advanced dental education program, known as Practical Clinical Courses (PCC). A “mentor” is essentially an assistant teacher; we help teach the hands-on part of the courses while Dr. C does the lecturing. ***Dr. Christensen is, without any doubt whatsoever, the world’s best known and most respected dentist.*** He is about 72, looks about 55, and has the energy and personality of an athletic 35-year-old. He is simply an amazing man. Don and I have been taking classes with him since the late ’80s and have done research with his nonprofit research group for over a decade. I can honestly say that he is responsible for much of the satisfaction and joy that we get out of the practice of dentistry.

Don and I discussed this “mentoring” and decided that only one of us should do it at a time, since it would be a big commitment. I can’t remember if we arm wrestled, flipped a coin, or simply went in alphabetical order, but I was the first to go. Unfortunately for us, Dr. Christensen went on a Latter Day Saints (Mormon) mission for two years right when I was about to start, so I just recently finished my two-year commitment to him.

This experience has been great for me. I don’t know how good of a teacher I have been, but they have, at least, asked me to continue on. (I don’t know yet if I will; perhaps I will finally give Don his chance to “mentor.”) This past weekend, I was teaching a course and a nice fellow from San Diego kept coming up and asking me questions. He seemed to really value my input because he continued to seek me out. I ended up having dinner with him and found out that he is a prosthodontist, a specialist in difficult restorative dentistry, and that at 62 he has an incredibly successful, cutting-edge practice in a nice suburb of San Diego. And he is asking *me* questions! Pretty funny, eh? In fact, most of the participants in these courses are in the top one percent in dentistry. It is awesome to be hanging out with these folks, let alone thinking that I can teach them anything. I just hope I haven’t messed ’em up too badly.

In case you were wondering, no, we are not paid for our mentoring work. It falls under one of those “giving back” things. It also makes it hard to justify doing this for too much longer. And, oh yes, I do usually get the chance to spend a day skiing or hiking when I am out there. So it is definitely not a boondoggle, but it has been, all around, pretty fun! Thanks for understanding when I have been away!

Dr. Dave

Becoming “mentors” for Dr. Gordon Christensen’s hands-on, advanced dental education program, known as Practical Clinical Courses, is our way of “giving back.” I can honestly say that Dr. Christensen is responsible for much of the satisfaction and joy that we get out of the practice of dentistry.

Wright & Zelazny, D.D.S., P.C.
4152 Sashabaw Road
Waterford, MI 48329

*Here's your
dental newsletter!*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

© Copyright 2006. Newsletters, Ink. Corp. Printed in the U.S.A. www.newslettersink.com
The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for dental advice. For your specific information, be sure to consult our office.

How the Z's spent our summer

Have you seen any "For Sale" signs in your neighborhood lately? One of them was up in my front yard recently, but I'm happy to say it is no longer there. Yes, we sold our house. People marvel at that, "You SOLD YOUR HOUSE?" Well, actually my father did. When they retire, most people pick up the golf clubs or the fishing rod. My dad, however, picks up the tie, puts it on, and heads to his office at Century 21. I know the last thing I want to do when I retire is put on a tie, but we're fortunate he does and was able to sell our house. Thanks, "Big Z." Our new house is in Oakland Township near the Bald Mountain recreation area. Now I'm able to soak away the aches and pains of a day at work (OK, I'm being dramatic) in the neighborhood pool right down the street. The drive to our Bloomfield Hills office is also 20 minutes shorter!

Fortunately, my family is not involved in the myriad of activities that many are involved in, making the move easier. Still, the summer flew past, even though I did not have to attend one swim meet, graduation open house, travel soccer game, or wedding. Of course, I have my plan to limit the kids' activities to slow down the pace of life. I plan on having my son Andrew try out for the *Internet checkers* team. If he makes the "travel" team, we'll bring the laptop to the pool for his games! My little girl Tessa is becoming a little lady, but still has a rough and tough side. I think *ballroom bowling* will be perfect for her for now.

I hope any of you with houses for sale are able to sell. The market has to take an upturn soon. If you do sell, I've got a bunch of boxes you can have! My wife didn't believe my story about the cardboard allergy.



WRIGHT & ZELAZNY
D.D.S., P.C.

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

4152 Sashabaw Road
Waterford, MI 48329

Office Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Appointment and Emergency

Phone: (248) 673-0505

Bloomfield Hills Office
43700 Woodward Ave., Suite 204
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Office Hours

Monday	8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Appointment and Emergency

Phone: (248) 338-4140

**DENTAL
FACT**



Dental disease is the
#1 infectious disease
in U.S. children.