

vax ID In Their Own Words

August 17, 2007

Attn: Frank Klees
PC Candidate for Newmarket/Aurora

Re: Joseph Farrugia/Health Care System in Ontario

My name is Veronica and my husband and I have a 14 year old son, Joseph, who is very fortunate to be walking and enjoying everyday activities today that most of us simply take for granted. This was possible because of the dedication and professional service given to us by Dr. Brian Moore.

Approximately one week prior to the May long weekend, Joseph came home from his bike ride and told us that he had taken a fall from his bike when suddenly he was forced to stop dead on his tracks. When he flew off his bike he landed on his left side but he was able to get back up and he felt good enough to ride home. A few days had passed and we noticed that he was very stiff when walking around so when he kept complaining that there was pain in his lower back as well as his knee we went to the walk-in clinic. They checked him over and sent him home very quickly saying that this should clear up by itself. Days passed and the pain was gradually getting worse for him so on May 21st was our first visit to the emergency room. We waited for 5 hours and when we finally got to see the doctor they suggested that we X-Ray his knee (since his pain was in his right knee and only some parts of his leg). They didn't find any fractures and therefore reassured us that this should clear up on its own. Although Joseph was complaining about muscle spasm they prescribed anti-inflammatory pills and sent us on our way.

The following day he didn't feel well enough to go to school so we went back again to Emergency. We waited again for 5 hours and when the doctor saw us he said "you're here for the same thing as yesterday?!?" To which I replied "No, the pain is worse than yesterday and now he's having a difficult time sitting for a long period of time. It seems as if his pain is coming from his lower back!" They checked him over again and watched how he walked and then the doctor concluded, "He'll be fine, just have him take a hot shower in the morning and he'll be able to go to school. There's nothing wrong with those pills, he can keep taking them!" The next day he tried going to school but only lasted for ½ hour because he was unable to sit for much longer than that without pain shooting into his knee and leg. At this point he was feeling more comfortable standing or walking since he could feel the spasm or burning sensation in his whole leg when sitting down. Knowing that we didn't get very good service from the previous visits at the hospital, that evening I started to search for an alternative help for my son.

We started searching through the yellow pages but we didn't get much success finding anyone and since he was comfortable enough to go to sleep I reassured him we would find someone for him the next day.

On May 24th, we woke up to the sound of Joseph screaming! The spasm and pain was now taking over his whole right leg. He couldn't stand, sit, walk or stand in place for more than a few minutes at a time! Frustrated now, I grabbed the yellow pages and started calling anyone under chiropractic care who could help! My husband suggested that I stop calling since no one will be in the office at 6:35am!!! On the third try I got a real live voice, "Dr. Moore here, may I help you?" I said, "Thank God you're there!"

vax • D In Their Own Words

I explained to him briefly what happened to Joseph and he wanted to see him that same morning. When I got him to the office we were greeted by the office staff and Dr. Moore. Dr. Moore spent a lot of time going over details with us, took his time to check Joseph thoroughly and took an X-Ray of his back! He sat down with us to go over the results which were quite astounding! We found out that Joseph has a Grade 1 spondylolisthesis - which means that his vertebrae bone in his lower back had moved 25% forward. He may have been born with this or he had it for a very long time in his body. People can live with this in their bodies and not know about it – until an injury occurs. He also has scoliosis which means his spine has a sideways curvature and if left unattended he would have back problems for the rest of the rest of his life. Going to the base of his spine where the pelvis is, we were informed that it was twisted out of shape and he also has been living with this for many years (most likely occurred by taking many hits, bumps and bruises from the various sports that he enjoyed playing)! Because of all this, he was no longer perfectly symmetrical like a well balanced body should be – he was 19 pounds heavier on his left side than his right! We were also told that subluxations (spinal misalignments) hinder the body's innate intelligence and when this happens; your body isn't capable of self-healing. All this was inducing pressure on his spinal nerves which was responsible for the pain and muscle spasm shooting down into his leg. These things were slowly brewing in his body and taking the fall from his bike simply aggravated his whole condition. To think that all of the Doctors who examined him previously couldn't or wouldn't provide any of this information for us is beyond my understanding! Dr. Moore reassured us that he can get Joseph all better again without drugs and without surgery!

After a few chiropractic adjustments, Joseph started feeling pain free and he was warned to take it extremely easy at home, but being an active teenager, he did just the opposite. Waking up on May 26th, he was bedridden. Since we were unable to get Joseph out of his bed or house Dr. Moore made house visits from May 28th – June 3rd.

He would get Joseph to sit up and eventually onto a stool so he can start using his knees to roll himself around the house. He went from taking baby steps to bigger and bigger steps. Everyday that went by, he was given a new exercise so that he can strengthen his knees and legs. With a hunchback, by June 4th he was able to get out of the house for the first time taking only a few steps so he can get to the car. Dr. Moore kept adjusting him and giving him more exercises and by June 7th he was given crutches so that he can work on strengthening his back. With the crutches, not only was he getting his back in a more upright position, he was now able to walk further (only for a few minutes at a time) and use more of his leg muscles.

Although we could see from day to day that his body was getting stronger physically he still had another major challenge to overcome. The pain and muscle spasms in his right leg were excruciating and unbearable for the most part and it was striking him every hour to a couple of hours. He would be scared to fall asleep at night knowing that he would wake up screaming with pain; therefore his body wasn't getting the much needed rest to heal itself. There is no medication on the face of this earth (we found out the hard way) that can effectively take away muscle spasm when the condition is this acute.

After a couple of weeks of his muscle spasms not settling down, Dr. Moore gave us a concerned look and said, "His muscle spasms should have settled by now... we will need to get more tests done... a CT scan, an MRI ... there is a possibility of a herniated disc... and its best to get other doctors opinions..." Joseph, being a tall sturdy teenager, has now dropped from 150 lbs to 140 lbs. When I took a good look at his right leg, it was visibly smaller than his left! His well built muscles in his right leg have now gone flabby and limp. Feeling like we just hit a brick wall and exhausted from not knowing what else could be wrong, I sent an email to everyone that evening simply asking to say a prayer for Joseph. The very next night Joseph slept through the night.

VAX-D In Their Own Words

We went ahead and got other doctors' opinions. The next doctor we saw said we couldn't do much with Joseph until we get an MRI and he pretty well confirmed everything Dr. Moore revealed for us. Next stop was our family doctor. When I briefly explained what happened to Joseph, he quickly added, "Not only does Joseph need an MRI - ASAP but we are to stop all chiropractic treatment on Joseph immediately!"

I pointed out to him that although Josephs' healing process has been slow; he has been improving from day to day. To this he replied, "If in fact your son is getting better then he needs physiotherapy NOT a chiropractor." When I asked if he could give us details about his crooked pelvis he replied, "The pelvis had nothing to do with this. The best thing to do in a case like Josephs' would be to open him up and stick a piece of metal rod on his spine to stabilize everything and if you chose to continue with chiropractic treatments you are taking a chance that your son will become paralyzed!"

Joseph received his much needed MRI on June 20th and our family doctor faxed a request down to Sick Kids in Toronto that Josephs' situation was an URGENT matter and that he needed to be seen by a surgeon ASAP. When Joseph heard all this information he cried for quit a while and once again we were faced with yet another decision – do we allow Dr. Moore to continue chiropractic treatment on our son considering all the information we were given? I believe that God speaks to us through our children – all we need to do is listen and use discernment. I didn't have to look anywhere else for the answer when Joseph came up to me and said "I feel so much better every time Dr. Moore works on me – please allow me to continue with the chiropractic treatments!" And so it was – and we never looked back!

Everyday Joseph was adjusted and everyday I witnessed him getting a little stronger and more stable. On June 24th he gave up walking with his crutches and from there on he kept getting more energetic. Almost everyday Dr. Moore was giving him a new exercise and he was becoming more and more agile. By July 4th he was able to perform at one of his concerts sitting down with his base and at this point he was able to walk for 5-10 minutes without pain. Again he was given additional exercises and slowly we could see the improvements from week to week. On July 20th he was able to perform at his concert standing up, with his base for 25 minutes.

Since his MRI report proved that he also had a bulging disc at the L4-L5 level (lumbar spine) he would need to undergo spinal decompression. He was placed on an equipment called VAX-D and his spine would gently be pulled apart so that his bulging disc would naturally fall back into its proper place. This is the only alternative to surgery. Although we were skeptical at first about the effects of VAX-D, we agreed to complete all the sessions recommended by Dr. Moore. On July 28th, Joseph was able to get back on his bike for 15- 20 minutes and he started swimming again. He was able to regain the weight that he lost since his injury and as of Aug. 14th he was only 5 lbs. heavier on left side! At this point Joseph was feeling 75% healed. We were noticing considerable improvements near the end of Josephs' VAX-D sessions. On a scale from 0-10 (10 being extreme and 0 feeling no pain) his pain level was a 10 at the beginning of his ordeal but as of August 16th, his pain level has been reduced to 1.5. We had also received word from our family doctor that Sick Kids has finally accepted Joseph as a patient and a surgeon will be able to consult with him sometime in October 2007.

Mr. Klees, we understand that you are a strong advocate for helping children. We would like to know why such an important health care service such as VAX-D will not be covered by OHIP whereas surgery would be (with no guarantee that our son would be able to walk after such a delicate procedure)? Is anyone willing to compensate us for the emotional and financial stress placed upon our family during this process? There may possibly be a shortage of surgeons in Ontario but there is also a lack of knowledge as to how effective chiropractic treatments can be to our well being.

The logo for VAX-D features the word 'VAX' in a stylized, lowercase, blue font with a 3D effect. To its right is a square icon containing a white circle with a black dot in the center, resembling an eye or a camera lens. The text 'In Their Own Words' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font to the right of the icon.

VAX-D In Their Own Words

Chiropractors do NOT receive the credit they deserve since there is more scientific proof that they can help with spinal injuries more so than surgeons. VAX-D has been clinically proven to be 88% successful at treating chronic low back pain.

Although Joseph won't be able to play contact sports this fall he'll be back in school in September and he'll be enjoying most of the activities with the other kids. With all the hard work and dedication given to us by Dr. Moore we fully anticipate Joseph to walk into Sick Kids sometime in October feeling 100% or very close to it. Mr. Klees would you agree with us that there is something wrong with our health system in Ontario?

Sincerely,

Veronica Farrugia
Concerned Parent
Newmarket, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Farrugia,

I thank you for your thoughtful email concerning your son's healthcare challenges and subsequent successful treatment by Dr. Brian Moore.

Dr. Moore will confirm for you that he and I have had discussions concerning this important issue and that he has found me supportive of chiropractic treatment and that I believe chiropractic has a place in the healthcare system of our province.

My personal view, is that provincial funding of these services would result in a more comprehensive and more effective healthcare system.

I thank you for your perspective on this important issue.

Frank Klees, MPP