

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Doc 188

- - -

KEVIN M. AKERS, et al,)

Plaintiffs,)

vs.)

Case No. CV94-03-0755

JUDGE MORGAN

MARGARET THORNSBERRY,)

Defendant.)

COPY

- - -

Deposition of W. SCOTT HENDRICKS, D.D.S., a
Witness herein, called by the Defendant for
cross-examination pursuant to the Rules of Civil
Procedure, taken before me, the undersigned,
Leonard G. Puhalla, a Stenographic Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the
offices of Messrs. Young & McDowell, 507 Canton
Road, Akron, Ohio, on Wednesday, the 19th day of
October, 1994, at 4:58 o'clock, p.m.

- - -

1 W. SCOTT HENDRICKS, D.D.S.

2 of lawful age, a Witness herein, having been
3 previously duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
4 deposed and said as follows:

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

7 Q. Doctor, have you ever had your deposition
8 taken before?

9 A. Yes, once before.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Simple rules, I will ask you questions,
12 answer them as best you can. You have to answer
13 verbally instead of saying "uh-huh" or nodding
14 your head.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. If you don't understand the question, ask me
17 to repeat it or rephrase it and I will do that.

18 Doctor, you have met with Mr. Young and his
19 paralegal today; is that correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And have you met with either Mr. Young or
22 anybody associated with his office before today?

23 A. Mr. Young.

24 Q. When was that, approximately?

25 A. Oh, let's see, I think about three times.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of the Plaintiffs:

3 Messrs. Young & McDowell

4 BY: Dean A. Young, Attorney at Law
5 507 Canton Road
 Akron, Ohio 44312

6 On Behalf of the Defendant:

7 Messrs. Buckingham, Doolittle &
8 Burroughs

9 BY: Frank G. Mazgaj, Attorney at Law
10 50 South Main Street
 Akron, Ohio 44309

11 ALSO PRESENT:

12 Debra Talkington

13 - - -

1 Q. You have met with him three times?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And during any of those meetings, was Mr.
4 Akers present?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And do you recall when you first met with
7 him, approximately?

8 A. I think it was Friday, not last Friday but
9 the Friday before.

10 Q. Okay.

11 And what were you told during that meeting?

12 MR. YOUNG: I'm going to
13 object.

14 Do you want to ask him something specific?
15 I mean, you don't want to get into work product.

16 MR. MAZGAJ: I don't know if
17 it would be work product with a witness who is not
18 a party.

19 MR. YOUNG: Well, there is
20 obviously some --

21 MR. MAZGAJ: He is
22 identified as a fact witness, I do not think that
23 is work product, I can find out what you told him.

24 MR. YOUNG: About what?

25 MR. MAZGAJ: About this

1 lawsuit, about his deposition, about testifying,
2 about anything.

3 MR. YOUNG: You know, I
4 have to object for the record, it's awfully broad.
5 Here is why I indicate my objection. He is a
6 treating physician, he is a fact witness; but he
7 also, based on the Defendant's position about
8 injuries, he will also render opinions as an
9 expert.

10 MR. MAZGAJ: All right. I
11 totally agree.

12 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

13 Q. Okay.

14 Doctor, when you first met with Mr. Young a
15 couple of weeks ago or whatever, what, if
16 anything, did you go over with him as far as
17 documents, if any, or medical records?

18 A. We went over Kevin's medical record.

19 Q. Anything else other than that?

20 A. Anything else other than that, specifically?

21 Q. I don't know, you tell me.

22 Other than looking at his medical chart, did
23 you review anything else from a document
24 standpoint?

25 A. No, he asked me about Kevin's treatment and

1 why we did it. He did review the letter from
2 Bell.

3 Q. And did you have a chance to go through that
4 letter?

5 A. I read the letter. It was mailed to me.

6 Q. And do you have that letter in your file?

7 A. Not in Kevin's, file, no, I do not think so.

8 Q. Is this your complete file that you brought
9 with you today?

10 A. Yeah, that is Kevin's file.

11 Q. Doctor, when did you last treat Kevin Akers,
12 if you know? Refer to your file if you need to.

13 A. The last time that he was in was probably
14 about a month ago.

15 Q. And tell me about his condition a month ago.

16 A. His condition seemed to have stabilized.

17 Q. Okay.

18 And what do you mean by "stabilized"?

19 A. Well, he wasn't complaining of any pain at
20 that time.

21 Q. Did he have any complaints whatsoever
22 associated with his teeth, mouth or TMJ's?

23 A. Not at the time, no.

24 Q. Did you place any physical limitations on
25 him at that time?

1 A. No, not at that time.

2 Q. Do you have him under any physical
3 limitations at this point in time?

4 A. We talked about restricting opening his
5 mouth real wide for eating a sub sandwich just
6 because he had locked his jaw open previously
7 doing that, but no other limitations than that,
8 no.

9 Q. And as far as when you saw him a month ago,
10 did you check for any popping or clicking in his
11 jaws?

12 A. Yeah, palpationwise, yeah.

13 Q. And what were your findings?

14 A. There was no significant popping or clicking
15 at that time.

16 Q. Was there any?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And prior to a month ago, when had you last
19 seen Mr. Akers, if you know?

20 A. A few weeks before that.

21 Q. And his condition at that time as you
22 recall?

23 A. About the same as we just talked about.

24 Q. He wasn't complaining to you of any
25 problems?

1 A. (Witness nodding head up and down.)

2 Q. As far as his examination, was it normal?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Going back in time, when did he last have
5 what I will characterize as an abnormal
6 examination where you found something negative
7 during that examination?

8 A. I would have to look at the record.

9 Q. Sure, go ahead.

10 A. It says here asymptomatic on 9/8.

11 Q. Is that '94?

12 A. '92.

13 Q. Okay.

14 So as of September 8 of 1992, approximately
15 four months after this incident, Mr. Akers was
16 asymptomatic?

17 A. At that time, yeah.

18 Q. And asymptomatic means what?

19 A. He wasn't complaining of head pain.

20 Q. Are you aware of him having any problems
21 with any type of pain in either of his temporal
22 mandibular joints or in his face since September
23 of 1992 that you attribute to his TMJ problem?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Doctor, what does the future hold for Mr.

1 Akers with respect to his TMJ condition, if you
2 can tell us?

3 A. Well, he sustained an injury.

4 Q. What about the future, what does that hold
5 for him, if you can tell us?

6 A. The only thing I can tell you about the
7 future is if he should happen to get injured again
8 he is -- he is more susceptible to injury, more
9 susceptible to damage from it.

10 Q. Doctor, are you familiar with the Zunich
11 study concerning the diagnosis, treatment and care
12 of TMJ dysfunction?

13 A. The Zunich?

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. No.

16 Q. How about the Eller study, are you familiar
17 with that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Doctor, can you tell me what a severe Class
20 II malocclusion is?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay.

23 Go ahead.

24 A. A Class II malocclusion refers to the
25 maxilla and mandible being discrepant in how they

1 meet.

2 Q. As far as does the Class II malocclusion
3 have anything to do with the way the upper and
4 lower teeth come together?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you explain that to me as best as you
7 can in laymen's terms?

8 A. The lower anterior teeth don't meet the
9 upper anterior teeth.

10 Q. And by "anterior," you mean?

11 A. Front teeth.

12 Q. And when the Class II -- or the upper teeth,
13 do they extend beyond the lower or do the lower
14 extend beyond the upper?

15 A. The upper teeth extend beyond the lower
16 teeth.

17 Q. An overjet, is that another name for that?

18 A. There is overjet and overbite, yeah.

19 Q. Doctor, when I use the term "occlusion,"
20 does that mean how my teeth fit together, is that
21 a good definition for that?

22 A. That's good, yeah, that's good.

23 Q. And, Doctor, was Mr. Akers' occlusion
24 affected at all by the impact of this accident?

25 A. It's possible. I couldn't tell you that

1 because I didn't see him prior to the accident.

2 Q. Fair enough.

3 So whether or not the way his upper and
4 lower teeth fit together, whether that was
5 affected as a result of the impact, you are unable
6 to tell us, correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. Can you tell us whether or not his TMJ disks
9 were dislocated at all at any time?

10 A. Objective signs of some dislocation to the
11 TMJ disks would be popping and position on the
12 temporal mandibular joint radiographs.

13 Q. Have you ever seen any diagnostic studies
14 that showed that in fact the disks were in fact
15 dislocated? I'm trying to find out if his were or
16 not.

17 A. Yeah, he had objective signs that his were
18 dislocated. He didn't have an arthrogram, a dye
19 injection, to show that, no.

20 Q. When you say "objective test," palpation and
21 the clicking, is that --

22 A. The clicking indicates dislocation of the
23 disk.

24 Q. And are you of the opinion that every time
25 that there is clicking or cracking in the jaw or

1 in the TMJ area that that's a sign that the disk
2 is dislocated?

3 A. That's a sign that the disk is dislocated,
4 yes, in terms of its movement is not coordinated
5 with the movement of the mandible.

6 Q. And, Doctor, what percentage, if you know,
7 of our population has some type of cracking or
8 clicking in their jaw?

9 A. A very significant percentage.

10 Q. And can you be any more specific? Is it
11 more than 60 percent, if you know?

12 A. There are a variety of estimates.

13 Q. Based on your practice, what have you found?

14 A. I would say a third.

15 Q. And in those patients is it your opinion
16 that they all have some type of disk derangement
17 that causes that cracking and clicking?

18 A. I base my treatment on whether or not the
19 patient presents with pain, in other words,
20 needing treatment. If I examine a patient and
21 there's clicking or popping, I provide no
22 treatment. I don't call that disease, no.

23 Q. Well, okay, Doctor, I'm just trying to find
24 out -- I thought you indicated that if there is
25 clicking in the jaw that means that the disk is

1 dislocated; is that correct?

2 A. That's an objective sign that could indicate
3 that the disk is dislocated.

4 Q. I think we're getting there.

5 That sign alone doesn't mean that the disk
6 is dislocated; am I correct?

7 A. You are correct.

8 Q. What was it about Mr. Akers, other than the
9 clicking, that led you to the opinion that in fact
10 his disks were dislocated?

11 A. Displacement of the condyle upward on the
12 radiograph and clenching.

13 Q. Why would clenching indicate or why did that
14 indicate to you that Mr. Akers' disks were
15 dislocated, the clenching itself?

16 A. It's what we look for on a temporal
17 mandibular joint radiograph.

18 Q. Clenching shows up on a radiograph?

19 A. No, it has nothing to do with it. When we
20 take a temporal mandibular joint radiograph, we
21 take a resting position view of the jaw, we take a
22 view upon loading, which I call clenching, and we
23 take a wide open view.

24 Q. And did any of the views which you saw on
25 the radiograph indicate to you that Mr. Akers

1 should be referred for surgery to correct the disk
2 dislocation?

3 A. I base any surgical referral based upon not
4 responding to nonsurgical therapy. In such a
5 case, we would order a MRI or an arthrogram, and
6 it would depend on who we were working with.

7 Q. And was a MRI or arthrogram done in this
8 case?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You didn't feel it was necessary, correct?

11 A. Not unless the patient is scheduled for
12 surgery or we think he may need surgery.

13 Q. And you didn't think he needed surgery
14 because he responded well to therapy; is that
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you do some type of grinding too?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What type of grinding?

20 A. Occlusal equilibration.

21 Q. Help me out, I don't know what that is?

22 A. We adjust the top surfaces of the posterior
23 teeth and the incisal edges of the anterior teeth.
24 It has a part in retention following orthodontia
25 and it also helps close the anterior bite.

1 Q. Is that often times known as spot grinding?

2 A. People have referred to it in the literature
3 as spot grinding.

4 Q. So that is correct, the answer is "yes"?

5 A. People have referred to it in the literature
6 as spot grinding. The occlusal equilibration that
7 I did is presented in the lecture on how to do it.

8 Q. All I'm trying to find out is, is spot
9 grinding another name for the term that you are
10 using?

11 MR. YOUNG: Let me object
12 for the record. I think you asked him that and I
13 think he is trying to explain the kind of
14 grinding.

15 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

16 Q. Please do.

17 A. I think when we are looking at spot grinding
18 we are looking at minor adjustments as to how a
19 tooth fits together.

20 For example, when we spot grind a crown, a
21 tooth replacement, we mark it with paper and we
22 adjust small areas as to how it contacts.

23 In the occlusal equilibration we remove the
24 large amount of nonworking cusps of the teeth and
25 we flatten out the incisal edges so when the

1 patient slides his jaw forward, they have freedom
2 of movement.

3 Q. Doctor, I want you to assume that a patient
4 comes into your office and in fact has had that
5 type of grinding done. Now, you have seen cases
6 of bruxism; haven't you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Have you seen that in severe forms?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And if you were to examine that patient who
11 experienced the type of grinding that you just
12 described, would you have any problem
13 differentiating that type of grinding from
14 bruxism?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Why would you have a problem with that?

17 A. The person that had that kind of grinding
18 could have that display of the teeth from having a
19 very coarse diet, they could have it from having
20 the grinding, they could have it from grinding
21 their teeth.

22 Q. So it's your feeling when you examine that
23 patient you wouldn't be able to tell whether that
24 grinding was caused from prior orthodontia or
25 bruxism, correct?

4 1 A. No, you couldn't tell that.

2 Q. You could not tell the difference?

3 A. You couldn't tell if it came from a very
4 coarse diet either.

5 Q. Doctor, what is your understanding as to
6 when Mr. Akers first complained of jaw pain
7 following this accident?

8 A. Well, when he first came to me, that's when
9 I know that he was complaining of jaw pain.

10 Q. Do you know whether or not he complained of
11 jaw pain before treating with you?

12 A. It appears somewhere in Battaglia's records.

13 Q. And, Doctor, when would you have expected
14 him to complain of jaw pain following this
15 collision?

16 A. Within the first three months.

17 Q. Why the delay in having an onset of pain for
18 three months?

19 A. It's what the literature states.

20 Q. Have you ever seen individuals who sustained
21 a direct blow to their TMJ or their head
22 experience pain in their jaw joint immediately?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Does that happen more than 50 percent of the
25 time?

1 MR. YOUNG: I'm going to
2 object.

3 MR. MAZGAJ: You can answer.

4 MR. YOUNG: Are you talking
5 about the people he sees --

6 MR. MAZGAJ: Sure, the
7 people that you see.

8 MR. YOUNG: -- the people
9 in the population generally, people with direct
10 blows to the joint, people with direct blows to
11 the head? My objection is that your question is
12 too broad because it covers too many
13 possibilities.

14 MR. MAZGAJ: You can answer.

15 THE WITNESS: No, I would say
16 about 50 percent of the time.

17 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

18 Q. Is what?

19 A. I said about 50 percent of the time.

20 Q. 50 percent of the time, what, I don't
21 understand?

22 A. What was the question?

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. You said that do they experience pain
25 immediately or is there a delay; is that correct?

1 Q. And in your cases that you have been
2 involved with, approximately 50 percent of the
3 time it's immediate, correct?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Doctor, when you last examined Mr. Akers did
6 you test the height he was able to open his mouth,
7 I'm not sure what that test is called?

8 A. His range of motion has been about 38, 40
9 millimeters for sometime.

10 Q. Is that normal?

11 A. It's a little less than normal. In my
12 viewpoint acceptable. I mean, in the literature
13 they would say, you know, 50 millimeters is
14 acceptable; but I think considering he sustained
15 an accident, 40 millimeters is acceptable.

16 Q. Doctor, he is still wearing a retainer now?

17 A. Lower lingual retainer, yeah.

18 Q. And what is the purpose for that?

19 A. To retain the position of the lower anterior
20 teeth.

21 Q. Is that helping to straighten his teeth?

22 A. No, it helps to keep them there.

23 Q. As opposed to what, falling out? I'm not
24 trying to be cute today, I want to finish. What
25 do you mean, I don't know what you mean?

1 A. There is a tendency for teeth, once they
2 have been moved, to rebound to their original
3 position. We know by holding them in the moved
4 position for a certain amount of time there is
5 less tendency for that. That's why they call it
6 retention or retainer.

7 Q. Were his teeth moved at all as a result of
8 this accident?

9 A. No, I do not think his teeth were moved.
10 The question was earlier whether it had an impact
11 on his bite, it may have.

12 Q. The orthodontia treatment that you have
13 given him, has that resulted in his teeth being
14 moved at all?

15 A. Orthodontia is movement of teeth, yes, that
16 is correct.

17 Q. And the movement of those teeth, why was
18 that necessary?

19 A. To correct his anterior open bite.

20 Q. And what is an anterior open bite?

21 A. Well, his anterior teeth did not contact.

22 Q. That's the overjet that we talked about?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And whether he had that overjet before the
25 accident, you don't know, correct?

1 A. I don't know. I suspect he did. In other
2 words, a traumatic accident can change -- a change
3 in the position of the condyles can cause some
4 anterior open bite.

5 Q. And that's all I want to find out, do you
6 know if it happened here?

7 A. I don't know if it happened, no.

8 Q. And that's all I want to find out.

9 You can't testify when the question is asked
10 of you on Friday, based upon a degree of medical
11 certainty, as to whether or not his teeth were
12 moved or his bite was affected as a result of this
13 impact, you can't say, correct?

14 A. I think if there is displacement of the
15 condyle, the answer is, yes, the bite has been
16 affected.

17 To say that it was affected to the point
18 that he had a normal bite prior to the accident
19 and now he has a completely abnormal bite, that
20 would be false.

21 So, yes, there is an impact of the traumatic
22 accident upon the patient's bite, if indeed there
23 has been a trauma to the disk condyle assembly,
24 there is a shift in how the teeth come together;
25 but to say that the malocclusion that Kevin

1 presented came from the accident, I suspect that
2 Kevin had malocclusion prior to the accident.

3 Q. I think you answered my question.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. To the extent that it was changed, you can't
6 state with any probability, correct?

7 A. That is correct.

8 MR. YOUNG: Well, just
9 while you're thinking I'm going to enter my
10 objection.

11 I'm entering my objection for the record
12 relative to his characterization of his answer
13 because I think his more detailed answer is a
14 proper one.

15 MR. MAZGAJ:

16 Q. Doctor, one can have good oral hygiene and
17 bruxism, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Have you reviewed any of Mr. Akers' dental
20 records prior to you treating him?

21 A. I saw records, yeah.

22 Q. And what records did you see? Are those in
23 your file here?

24 A. I was given a copy of Valley Dental's
25 records. I just glanced at them. I don't have

1 them here, no.

2 Q. Other than those, have you seen any of his
3 other medical records?

4 A. Again, I was given copies of them, I glanced
5 at them.

6 Q. Doctor, in looking at a document from your
7 file it was a questionnaire completed by Mr. Akers
8 on 7/23/92, correct?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. You have to say "yes" or "no."

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And, Doctor, do you go over this with him?

13 A. Uh-huh, yes.

14 Q. And the one question down here, "Do you
15 habitually clench your teeth during the night or
16 day," he checked off "Yes."

17 Did you ask him about that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what did he tell you about that?

20 A. He has been noticing when he wakes up in the
21 morning that his teeth are together.

22 Q. Anything other than that?

23 A. That's what he addressed.

24 Q. Did he indicate whether or not he had that
25 problem before the accident?

1 A. No.

2 Q. He didn't indicate that or he told you he
3 didn't have it?

4 A. He didn't report any symptoms prior to the
5 accident of pain. I think it's reasonable to
6 expect somebody who is having muscle spasm
7 following a traumatic accident to say they are
8 waking up with clenching of the teeth.

9 I mean, that's why I did the treatment, he
10 was in head pain and we saw evidence of tender
11 muscles and tender joints.

12 Q. Doctor, what is your understanding as to
13 what part of Mr. Akers' head struck the vehicle?

14 A. My understanding is the front of his head
15 struck the vehicle.

16 Q. What part, if you can be more specific?

17 A. Forehead.

18 Q. What side of his forehead, if you know?

19 A. I think it was the right side.

20 Q. Doctor, I notice here that Mr. Young had
21 requested some medical reports from you.

22 Did you ever prepare a medical report?

23 A. No.

24 MR. YOUNG: Can I indicate
25 for the record, Frank, and for your benefit that

1 although I sent a request, no report was ever sent
2 to me and I never did receive any written report
3 from Dr. Hendricks.

4 MR. MAZGAJ: I'm sorry, I
5 missed the end of that.

6 MR. YOUNG: Off of the
7 record for just a minute.

8 (Thereupon, a discussion
9 was held off the record.)

10 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

11 Q. Doctor, how much are you going to charge Mr.
12 Young to testify at trial?

13 A. \$500 an hour.

14 MR. YOUNG: I will have to
15 talk fast. Don't ask many questions.

16 MR. MAZGAJ: I never do.

17 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

18 Q. Doctor, tell me a little bit about your
19 training, education and work experience, just kind
20 of run through it; and if I want something more, I
21 will ask you to tell me a little more or do you
22 have a CV?

23 A. Yeah, I have to prepare one for you.

24 Q. Just go ahead and start in college and kind
25 of take me through your training a little bit?

1 A. Case Western Reserve.

2 Q. Go ahead.

3 A. Preprofessional scholar in dentistry,
4 received a dental degree from Case Western
5 Reserve, studied occlusion and TMJ in postdental
6 school training since then, lectured several times
7 on it.

8 Q. On TMJ dysfunction?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. You have to say "yes" or "no."

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And where have you lectured?

13 A. Pittsburgh, Table Clinic, Stark County
14 Dental Society, Bahamas.

15 Q. Have you treated or have you lectured about
16 the use of orthodontia to treat TMJ dysfunction?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Have you lectured on any other areas of TMJ
19 other than that?

20 A. Use of splint therapy, how to adjust the
21 bite afterwards.

22 Q. Doctor, once you in fact fitted Mr. Akers
23 for a splint, his headaches immediately went away,
24 correct?

25 A. He had resolution of symptoms quickly, yes.

1 Q. I guess "immediate" is a bad term.

2 A. I guess to say immediate I don't know that
3 that --

4 Q. Within a short period of time?

5 A. Yes. I didn't send a letter to Dr.
6 Battaglia by the way.

7 (Thereupon, Defendant's Exhibit 1
8 of the Hendricks Deposition
9 was marked for purposes of
10 identification.)

6
11 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

12 Q. Defendant's Exhibit 1 is a letter that you
13 prepared to send to Dr. Battaglia but did not in
14 fact send?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. You have to say "yes" or "no."

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The second time that you met with Mr. Young,
19 what did you discuss and who was present?

20 A. There wasn't anybody else present.

21 Q. What did you discuss the second time?

22 A. We reviewed Kevin's records. He didn't have
23 enough time to go over it the first time. We
24 scheduled a meeting for Monday, I had a
25 conflicting appointment that my wife had already

1 scheduled for me, and so we just met very briefly;
2 and then we met again I think it was two days
3 later, that would be a Wednesday.

4 Q. And then you met today?

5 A. Yeah.

6 MR. YOUNG: We met for a
7 few, ten minutes prior to coming in here.

8 THE WITNESS: Yes.

9 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

10 Q. How long did you meet before coming in here
11 today?

12 A. About ten minutes.

13 Q. So you met four times altogether or three?

14 A. I think four would be adequate including
15 today.

16 MR. YOUNG: Let me
17 interject, the one time we didn't have discussion
18 because there was a conflict, is that --

19 THE WITNESS: Well, he asked
20 if we met.

21 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

22 Q. And, Doctor, do you feel any future
23 orthodontia is going to be necessary for Mr.
24 Akers?

25 A. There is a possibility of relapse of the

1 lower anterior teeth.

2 Q. Okay.

3 I appreciate that opinion although again, as
4 Mr. Young has probably explained to you, we have
5 to deal with probabilities and maybe you can't
6 answer this question and that is okay.

7 My question to you is: Do you have an
8 opinion based upon a reasonable degree of
9 probability as to whether or not --

10 A. I doubt that I will be doing anything
11 further for him orthodontially.

12 Q. Let me make sure that I am clear on the
13 record, make sure I am done with the question
14 before you answer.

15 A. Oh.

16 Q. That is okay.

17 Can you state as we sit here today based
18 upon a reasonable degree of medical probability as
19 to whether Mr. Akers will require any further
20 orthodontia or TMJ treatment for his orthodontia
21 problem?

22 A. I think he has recovered very well and I
23 would say that the probability is on the side of
24 him not doing that.

25 I think that it's reasonable to expect him

1 to have a six-month recall to check his progress,
2 but other than that, his response has been very
3 well to treatment.

4 Q. Doctor, let's move ahead a little bit in
5 your education and experience, take me through
6 your experience, you are in Hartville now?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How long have you been there?

9 A. Since '86.

10 Q. Who are you in practice with, if anybody?

11 A. Dr. Byers, Fritz Byers.

12 Q. Is that your first job after your training?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Take me back through time?

16 A. When I received my license, I started
17 working for somebody in Massillon.

18 Q. And when did you get your license,
19 approximately?

20 A. November '85.

21 Q. Okay.

22 Are you board certified in any area?

23 A. In dentistry, yeah.

24 Q. Okay.

25 Go ahead. Take me through?

1 A. In '85 I worked for somebody in Massillon
2 while he was out. I worked for somebody in Canton
3 south and I worked for somebody in Canton.

4 Q. Doctor, in the past five years how many TMJ
5 cases do you think you have seen; and answer that
6 however you are comfortable with it, if you want
7 to answer monthly average, weekly average, if you
8 know the exact number?

9 A. That I have treated, that other people have
10 treated, how many people are in the office every
11 week that have had TMJ therapy?

12 Q. Let's say cases that you have diagnosed
13 either as -- the receipt of the patient from a
14 referral or new patients in your office.

15 A. A couple a week.

16 Q. And of those patients has anyone experienced
17 TMJ dysfunction from bruxism?

18 A. Bruxism I have treated several people for.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Do you accept bruxism as a cause of TMJ
21 dysfunction?

22 A. I think that bruxism aggravates the temporal
23 mandibular joint dysfunction. Whether it causes
24 temporal mandibular joint dysfunction is certainly
25 questionable.

1 Q. Okay.

2 Well, how do you stand on that fence?

3 A. I stand on the fence from the standpoint of
4 providing treatment for the patient. The patient
5 has a temporal mandibular joint problem, they have
6 bruxism, I see it within the first week of
7 treatment because they have tremendous divots or
8 wear areas in the splint that I make, and I
9 prescribe Elavil for them to interfere with the
10 bruxism and many bruxers are lifetime splint
11 wearers.

12 Q. Is Mr. Akers using a splint now?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you think -- and again can you state with
15 any type of probability as to whether he will need
16 to wear a splint in the future?

17 A. I think if he has some other precipitating
18 factor, but I would say at this point he has
19 probably an 80 -- it depends on the studies that
20 you read -- 80 percent chance of not needing
21 further treatment.

22 Q. Doctor, other than trauma, do you believe
23 there are -- and lack of teeth or loss of various
24 teeth, do you feel there are any other causes of
25 TMJ dysfunction?

1 MR. YOUNG: Well, I will
2 object. I don't remember him saying lack of
3 teeth.

4 MR. MAZGAJ: Okay. Well,
5 let me ask --

6 MR. YOUNG: I don't want to
7 put words in his mouth.

8 BY MR. MAZGAJ:

9 Q. Okay.

10 Do you believe missing teeth can cause TMJ
11 dysfunction?

12 A. I think that the literature at this point is
13 not clear. I think the field of dentistry is not
14 clear as to what causes temporal mandibular joint
15 problems.

16 We have clearly identified trauma as a
17 causative factor. We accept bruxism as an
18 aggravating factor, and several people have
19 reviewed literature and questioned its initiating
20 cause of temporal mandibular joint disease.

21 Certain bites, for example anterior open
22 bite, are associated with the disease. So there
23 are some weak associations between the bite and
24 temporal mandibular joint disease.

25 Q. Doctor, without -- if a patient does not

1 sustain a blow to the head or a whiplash injury or
2 any type of physical trauma to their body, can
3 they have TMJ dysfunction?

4 A. I suspect that they can.

5 Q. And what causes it in those cases?

6 A. We don't know.

7 MR. MAZGAJ: Doctor, that's
8 all that I have. Thanks.

9 MR. YOUNG: I think he
10 would like to read it.

11 (Thereupon, the deposition was
12 concluded at 5:41 o'clock p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO,)
) SS:
SUMMIT COUNTY,)

I, Leonard G. Puhalla, a Stenographic Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within named witness, W. SCOTT HENDRICKS, D.D.S., was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by him was by me reduced to Stenotypy in the presence of said witness, afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony so given by him as aforesaid.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified, and was completed without adjournment.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Akron, Ohio on this 19th day of October, 1994.

Leonard G. Puhalla
Leonard G. Puhalla, Stenographic
Reporter and Notary Public in
and for the State of Ohio.

My commission expires January 18, 1997.

1 I, W. SCOTT HENDRICKS, D.D.S., do verify
2 that I have read this transcript consisting of 36
3 pages and that the questions and answers are
4 correct.

5
6 W. SCOTT HENDRICKS, D.D.S.

7
8 Sworn to before me, _____,
9 Notary Public

10
11 this _____ day of _____, 1994.
12

13
14
15 Notary Public in and for the
16 State of Ohio.

17 My commission expires _____.
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