

October 24, 2016

I am a 50 year old female patient of Dr. Ken Grey. When I first met Dr. Ken in the fall of 2015 I had been suffering with unremitting moderate to severe neuropathic pain in a tooth since summer 2009, 6 life changing years. I have Atypical Odontalgia, a rare neuropathic tooth pain that is unfortunately poorly understood by the medical community. This condition most always starts with an unintentional injury during a dental procedure and is managed by medications, there is no cure. My story started with a simple dental filling in a tooth. I had never had pain of any nature in a tooth but was advised by my long standing dentist that I needed a filling after reviewing an xray at my routine checkup. After the anesthesia wore off my tooth started to hurt and it never stopped for the next 6 life changing years. My pain feels like acid is burning deep inside an upper tooth and it is 24/7. Nothing makes it worse or better, it's like a light switch that was turned on and was never turned off with a pain level fluctuating between a good 3 to an excruciating level 10. I had the dental filling redone with no relief and was advised by my dentist that I needed a root canal. I saw an Endodontist and was told I wasn't a candidate for root canal therapy because my tooth didn't respond to the hot/cold test. After a few more months of increasing pain I returned and pleaded with him to perform the root canal on my tooth. He reluctantly did and unfortunately my pain did not improve. I was then referred to an oral surgeon who suggested a retreat root canal before pulling the tooth. I had the retreat root canal on the same tooth and again no relief whatsoever. I was told it was a perfect root canal and was made to feel mentally unstable by him and my dentist because they had no idea what was wrong and why I was still in pain. I was also advised pulling the tooth wouldn't help because my pain couldn't be numbed with anesthesia and sent away. I was so desperate for any relief and a diagnosis at this point and my life was unraveling. I am a stay at home mother to two small daughters who were two and four years old at the time and my husband works out of town. I could barely take care of myself much less my children on my worst days and my best days consisted of getting just the basics accomplished. I look back now and don't know how I made it.

For the next six years I spent over \$45,000 and saw countless doctors of every discipline from dentists to neurosurgeons all over south Florida and wasn't officially diagnosed until year four. By that time I had diagnosed myself through online research and had joined online support groups desperate to connect with anyone who knew what I was going through. I knew I was on my own in this journey and giving up wasn't an option. Over the first 6 years I have had 4 root canals in this tooth, several

excruciating nerve blocks, laser therapy treatments, 10 sphenopalatine ganglion nerve blocks with ketamine infusions under general anesthesia, botox injected into my tooth and gums that unfortunately paralyzed my entire left side of my face for 8 months, multiple Calmare treatments, which is a brain scrambler type therapy that is designed to retrain the brain how to interpret pain, and over 20 different medication combinations.

Last fall I was at my lowest point and a dear friend of mine suggested I try acupuncture with Dr. Ken Grey, her personal family doctor. I had hesitated in the past on acupuncture because I was so focused on trying to cure my condition. But I had nothing to lose and anything to gain. From the first time I met Dr. Ken I immediately felt comfortable and knew he truly cared about helping me. I knew if acupuncture could help me he was the one who could do it. Within the first month of treatments I started getting some relief and was so thankful. I continued to improve over time and have had many days without any pain at all! I never thought I'd be able to say this after so many disappointments with other treatments over the years, but I am truly grateful for it and continue to see Dr. Ken every two weeks to keep myself feeling my best. Dr. Ken gave me my life back!

Sincerely,

Sharon McGoldrick