



The Orthodontic Myth Busters

Episode 8: The Case of Doc's Mysterious Diary

Dr. Eliyahu Simcha Gherman

Dovy Goldberg was quite a curious kid. One afternoon, as he was waiting to see Doc, he wandered into Doc's office and, although he knew it was wrong, he couldn't resist opening what looked like an old diary sitting on the Doc's desk. Dovy found the entries quite amusing and realized it was a collection of orthodontic stories the Doc must have written down over his twenty years of seeing patients. Dovy thought to himself: are all these stories true?

To our faithful readers of Orthodontic Myth Busters: Since it's Adar have some fun and (before looking at the answers at the bottom of the page) see if you or your family think these stories are true.

Entry 1: The fastest lost retainer was my patient from Long Island: It took him one minute! He walked out of the office and right back in telling us that he put his retainers in his pocket without the case and they fell out into an open sewer hole.

Entry 2: The oldest patient I ever treated was 85 years old. He lived in Yerushalayim and loved getting really fun colors. He told me the braces helped him keep his teeth clean and healthy, and the best part was that it made him look younger.

Entry 3: One Sunday afternoon, as I was taking my family to a museum in New Jersey, I was stopped by a traffic officer who was going to write me a ticket for making an illegal left turn. I

noticed that he was wearing braces and chewing gum. I took out my orthodontist card and said to him: "I'm very sorry, officer, the turn I made was not legal but was a mistake; but you have braces and you are chewing gum, and breaking the rules on purpose!" He took out his gum and said, "I guess I can't argue with that," and wrapped the gum in the ticket and threw it away. My family couldn't believe it, and I became the hero for the day.

Entry 4: A nine year old boy presented to my office with all the signs of a serious thumb sucker. His teeth were far away from each other spaced and flared out. The parents promised me they never saw him suck his thumb. I asked the boy and he also promised me he never sucked his thumb. I was baffled because all the clinical signs pointed to the fact that this was coming from somewhere. So I asked him: "Is there anything else you suck on that could be causing your bad bite." Well, hold onto your stomachs... "Sure," he said, "I suck my big toe." I told him he had a future in gymnastics but should stop because it was giving him a bad bite and because... it was gross.

Entry 5: Our patient from RBS came in holding his expander that had fallen out; however, there was no mistaking why it came out: Like a smoking gun, the taffy was still stuck to his expander.

Entry 6: I was treating a very distinguished wealthy African patient for a very bad bite. Everything was going smoothly, that is, until I closed the very large space he had between his front teeth. I said that it seemed intuitive that he wanted it closed and thus ideal. He explained to me that he was a prince in his country in Africa and the space was a sign of his royalty. So I told him not to worry, I would put it back as it came.



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Dovy heard Doc coming so he started to put the diary back. Noticing Dovy trying to hide his crime, Doc came in and laughed, "Dovy, I hope you got a good chuckle. It is Adar and remember - sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. These are all true stories!"

Hope you enjoyed this special Purim edition of myth busters. Stay tuned for the next Myth Buster's adventure.

Dr. Eliyahu Gherman's main office is located in Ramat Bet Shemesh-A, Nachal Tamar 1 (02-992-3363, simchabraces@gmail.com). He also works in Rechavia (02-561-9780). We are always looking for the most comfortable, fastest and ideal way to give you a healthy and beautiful smile.