

Energy Matters # I  
Valuing the Non-Emergent



*This article is an exploration of the hidden value of therapy. While the more obvious benefits are easy to perceive, there can be a whole range of unseen blessings that are concealed by time or that lie outside of the “results” that we normally associate with a session. Like many things in life, sometimes we need to dig a bit to find all that is there.*

*Thirty spokes join together in the hub.  
It is because of what is not there  
That the cart is useful.  
Clay is formed into a vessel.  
It is because of its emptiness that the vessel is useful.  
Cut doors and windows to make a room  
It is because of its emptiness that the room is useful.  
Therefore, what is present is used for profit.  
But it is in absence that there is usefulness.*

Lao-Tzu

My son Simon is going through the whole braces adventure. After each tightening I take him to my friend and colleague, William, to get a cranial treatment.

After the last treatment Simon was visibly relieved, reporting that his teeth and face didn't hurt at all. He also said that his head no longer felt stuck and achy, but felt like it was moving again and breathing again.

Needless to say, I was delighted for him. However, the lessening of his pain and the ease in his head only represented the surface of the true benefits from the session. *For me the greater value was all the future suffering that he won't have to experience because of the treatment that he had just received.* Like an iceberg where 90% of the mass is hidden below the surface, the long-term benefits from his cranial sessions are concealed.

Because these benefits exist in the future, they are difficult to perceive. No, that's not quite right. They are difficult to understand because many of the “benefits” are conditions that will NOT exist in the future.

*How can I articulate the concept of suffering that will no longer need to manifest into form?* During the session William helped Simon's system release the forces that the braces were applying to his teeth, jaw, face, nervous system, etc. If these forces had not been treated, Simon's system would have compensated and found a way to control and manage these energetic forces. However, over time, those compensations get more and more difficult to keep under control; it gets progressively more expensive for a person's system to keep up the containment strategies as the years pass.

In time a couple of things could happen. The containment could collapse and these forces would emerge suddenly and with a lot of force into his system. It's impossible to know how these forces might manifest in his system, but they might look like headaches, TMJ pain, vision problems, etc. At that point in the future, it is very hard to connect the dysfunction that is emerging in the present moment with the forces generated by the braces all those years before. This is one of the most challenging aspects of any clinical practice: identifying the original cause of a problem that a client is currently having. It is not uncommon for the causes to be obscured by the passage of the client's life.

Another possibility is that the compensating patterns themselves might become a problem. This is the proverbial case of the cure being worse than the disease. The compensating pattern can act as a drag on the system, leaving a wide range of symptoms in its wake. This could surface in many forms such as nervous system dysfunction, insomnia, or pain syndromes.

Simon and I are both happy that he is getting cranial help. He's very keen on the lessening of pain and the improvement in how his head feels. *For my part I greatly value the non-emergent, those things which will not need to present themselves in his future because the causal forces are being cleared before they can become the seeds of future suffering.*

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