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“ I have tried some local study clubs before but the Spear Study Club experience is so different. It’s much more organized and the material is at a consistently high level. The cases we are looking at are advanced, thought-provoking and challenging, but at the same time they’re touching on things that we see in our practices every day. To me, that is a big difference. With this study club it’s not just about reviewing literature or listening to a lecture. It’s much more hands-on and practical and you get ideas from it you can bring back to your practice and use right away.

Being a part of this club has broadened our perspectives. One of the benefits of this kind of club, of course, is that everyone brings their own experience and point of view. But it is possible as individual practitioners to get too attached to your own way of looking at things. So watching how these Spear faculty doctors do things has been eye-opening in many ways for all of us. I can really see the progression. The first time, we were all surprised because we were shown an approach that none of us would have considered. But now that we have gone through many of the sessions together, I can see how our way of thinking is changing. Even the things that seem complex — the way the Spear material breaks it down in such a systematic way, it really becomes simple.

From a bottom line standpoint, I have definitely seen an increase in quality referrals from the restorative doctors in my group. A big part of that is because I am also seeing an increase in trust. They know more about what I do and I am learning more about their expectations, too. Having gone through this learning experience together, we are speaking the same language. Sometimes a member will send a case to me — something they might have just babysat before — and say something like, “This is similar to that case we covered in the study club.”

If you really want to develop strong professional relationships — the kind that great interdisciplinary care is based on — there is no substitute for the powerful shared experience you get from leading a Spear Study Club.”

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