

Words cannot express just how much Lisa Shaw has guided us through my son's recovery from a concussion that he received during his travel soccer game. What started off as a "mild concussion" - diagnosed by his pediatrician turned into a 4-week recovery period. We initially visited my son's pediatrician and he assessed him with his "protocol" of testing. He stated based on what we told him about the incident and the way my son was presenting, he had a "mild concussion." When my son asked the pediatrician about returning to sports, he told my son if he was feeling OK he could train with his soccer coach that night but see how you feel. I was very apprehensive about that, and I told my son he was not going to train that night or return to sports at all that week. The crazy thing about my son's concussion was he did not have any physical symptoms after the accident. He did not lose consciousness, he did not throw up, and he did not have any memory loss. He was HIGHLY emotional and EXTREMELY irritable which is not in his character.

The day after the incident happened I contacted the Athletic Director at my sons' school to ask him questions about my sons baseline concussion test and during that conversation he referred me to Lisa Shaw. I contacted Lisa and she immediately responded to me giving me a concussion protocol specifically for soccer players wanting to return to play. We were following the protocol and I thought everything was fine. I let my son return back to his sports and after 20 minutes into his practice he threw up. I immediately contacted Lisa and asked if we can come in for an assessment. She was so accommodating, she got us in right away. She did such a thorough examination on my son. She found out that he had extreme nystagmus and his balance was way off. She looked at me and said his recovery is going to be at least 2 to 4 weeks! Remember I said this was a "mild concussion." We set up weekly visits with her and she gave us home programs to follow geared specifically towards my son's recovery. I guarantee his recovery would have been a lot longer or he could have been seriously injured again if we did not get assessed and receive therapy through Lisa.

I'm here to tell you regardless if your child has a mild concussion or severe concussion you need to take it seriously! Physically, my son appeared to be fine after the accident, but if I didn't get the thorough examination with Lisa we would have never known anything that was going on with him internally. I would have let him return back to sports and he probably could have been severely hurt during one of his games. Once someone receives a concussion they are now prone to getting more concussions.

We are forever grateful for Lisa and we will continue to see her even just for maintenance purposes. Please educate your family and friends and let them know the seriousness of concussions regardless if they are mild or severe. Thank you Lisa!

- Carmie Leister (Roswell, GA)