

TMD Patient, Should I Refer or Not?

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Temporomandibular disorders (TMD) is now considered to be a complex disease, and while TMD is the most common non-odontogenic pain in the oral and facial region, regional neuropathic pains are increasingly recognized as the most challenging diagnostically and therapeutically. Consequently, the dental professional has additional responsibilities - TMD as a complex disease and neuropathic pain, and the use of evidence in clinical evaluation and treatment becomes increasingly critical for the dental professional.

At present, there is no widely accepted, standard diagnostic test to identify all TMJ disorders. Because the exact causes and symptoms are not clear, identifying these disorders can be difficult and confusing. Diagnosis of TM disorders or related orofacial pain conditions should be based primarily on information obtained from the patient's history and a clinical examination of the head and neck.

In addition to a detailed history and a careful clinical examination, imaging studies of the teeth and jaws may sometimes be helpful as a diagnostic tool.

Profile

- * Ahrim Dental Hospital (TMJ and Orofacial Pain Center)
- * DDS, MSD, PhD, Specialist in Oral Medicine, ABDSM
- * Clinical Faculty in Dankook, Korea, Yonsei, Chungang and Kyunghee University
- * Past Vice President, Korean Academy of Orofacial Pain and Oral Medicine
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