

## Current diagnostic criteria and modalities for temporomandibular disorders - Clinical implementation

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Based on the biopsychosocial model, the Research Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders (RDC/TMD) and Diagnostic Criteria for TMD (DC/TMD) contains a dual-axis structure for evaluation of both the physical disorder (Axis-I) as well as the psychosocial models (Axis-II). Following its introduction in Korea, RDC/TMD was utilized by researchers and clinicians, and much research was undertaken on its validity, reliability, and clinical utility. One of our research classified TMD patients into three distinct pain subgroups using the RDC and DC/TMD axis I. This was done not only to compare the TMD group with normal subjects but also to contrast different pain subgroups for further elucidation and specification of the influence of pain origin on pain sensitivity, and also designed to compare the characteristic Axis-II features between each TMD subgroup and see if these variables showed correlation with pain thresholds. The DC/TMD is a standardized, validated assessment system, with two axes that assess the level of orofacial pain in a patient using various methods such as clinical examination and many standardized self-report instruments. This system is intended for use in both clinical and applied research settings and the extensive development process can be explored in greater detail. However, provider training and knowledge regarding patient centered outcomes and guidelines must be improved. Further research examining core properties is expected, and forthcoming additional DC/TMD research tools are intended to augment the DC/TMD for such research.

Standardized clinical testing methods based on DC-TMD are described largely as Axis-I and Axis-II, with the criteria for each measurement method. It is very important to distinguish between the clinical testing methods on DC-TMD and the clinical testing methods in accordance with the national insurance law in Korea.

### Profile

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