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ABSTRACT OF THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE



EFFECT OF CHIN-CAP THERAPY ON TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINTS

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the long-term effects of chin-cap therapy on temporomandibular disorder (TMD) symptoms. The treatment group consisted of 32 individuals with Class III malocclusions who were treated with chin-cap therapy for an average of 1.8 years. Two control groups consisted of: (1) 39 untreated individuals with skeletal Class III malocclusion; and (2) 53 dental students with normal occlusion. Subjects were classified as symptomatic if one positive sign or symptom was found upon examination. The distribution of symptomatic subjects was higher in the normal occlusion group than the treated and untreated Class III groups. The pain occurrence was significantly higher in the normal occlusion group than the treated Class III group. The main conclusion is that chin-cap therapy is not a risk factor for TMD.

Comments: The normal occlusion group consisted of dental students whose mean age was 19.2 years (range=18-21.4 years), while the treatment group had a mean age of 18.4 years (range=13.9-22.5 years). The dental students tended to be older and to likely have a more stressful lifestyle. As stress has been shown to be a significant risk factor for TMD, the authors could have selected a more suitable normal occlusion control group. LDK

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Arat ZM, Akcam MO, Gokalp H. Long-term effects of chin-cup therapy on the temporomandibular joints. *Eur J Orthod.* 2003;25:471-475.

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