Management of Temporomandibular Disorders

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The Kentucky Dental Association
March 3, 2016
Louisville, Kentucky

Classification of Temporomandibular Disorders

I. Masticatory Muscle Disorders
1. Protective Co-contraction
2. Local Muscle Soreness
3. Myofascial Pain
4. Myospasm
5. Chronic Centrally Mediated Myalgia

II. Temporomandibular Joint Disorders
1. Derangements of the Condyle-Disc Complex
   a. Disc Displacement with Reduction
   b. Disc Displacement without Reduction
2. Structural Incompatibilities
3. Inflammatory Disorders

A Masticatory Muscle Model

Normal Function  Time  Chronic

Resolution  Protective Co-contraction  Local Muscle Soreness

Unilateral Effects on Muscle Pain

Regional Myalgic Disorders
- Myofascial Pain
- Centrally Mediated Myalgia

Systemic Myalgic Disease
- Fibromyalgia

Managing Muscle Disorders takes some thinking.
Important: They are all managed differently.

Local Muscle Soreness
- etiology -
1. Protracted co-contraction produces changes in the muscle tissue, such as fatigue, ischemia, resulting in the production of algogenic substances.
2. Deep pain input (may lead to “cyclic muscle pain”)
3. Local tissue trauma
   a. local injury (e.g. injections, strain)
   b. unaccustomed muscle use (e.g. bruxism, chewing gum) (Delayed onset local muscle soreness)
4. increased levels of emotional stress
Local Muscle Soreness

- **History** -
1. The pain began several hours or days following an event associated with protective co-contraction. (e.g. altered sensory input, high crown)
2. Tissue injury (injections, opening wide, or unaccustomed muscle use – pain may be delayed).
3. Secondary to another source of the pain.
4. Associated with an increased level of the emotional stress.

Local Muscle Soreness

- **Clinical Characteristics** -
1. Structural dysfunction: a decrease in the velocity and range of mandibular movement. The full range of movement cannot be achieved by the patient. Passive stretching by the examiner can often achieve a more normal range of movement (soft end feel).
2. Minimal pain at rest.
3. Increased pain with function.
4. Local tenderness to palpation.

Local Muscle Soreness

- **Treatment** -
- The general goal of therapy is to reduce sensory input that can lead to cyclic muscle pain by:
  1. Eliminate any ongoing altered sensory or proprioceptive input.
  2. Education patient and encourage physical self regulation.
    a. decrease jaw use within painless limits. 
    b. stimulate proprioceptors with normal muscle use.
    c. promote emotional stress awareness / reduction. 
    d. encourage reduction of non-functional tooth contacts (cognitive awareness).
  3. Occlusal appliance therapy.
  4. Considered the use of mild analgesics. (ibuprofen 600mg tid)

Local Muscle Soreness

- **Treatment** -
  Expect results in 1-3 weeks.
  If the therapy is not successful, consider that either:
  1. The etiologic factors are not being controlled or
  2. You have misdiagnosed the disorder.

Final Criteria for the Stabilization Appliance

1. The appliance is stable and retentive.
2. All the teeth contact evenly on flat surfaces.
3. Eccentric contacts are on the anterior teeth.
4. In the upright position, posterior teeth contact heavier than the anterior teeth.
5. The appliances smooth and polished.

The Final Stabilization Appliance

- Right lateral movement
- Left lateral movement
Managing the patient with Local Muscle Soreness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>VAS</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>education, physical self regulation. reduce use to painless limits. reduce non functional tooth contacts. introduce the stabilization appliance, night time use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>reinforce physical self regulation. reevaluate the stabilization appliance, adjust PRN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>reinforce physical self regulation. reevaluate the stabilization appliance, adjust PRN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0/10</td>
<td>reinforce physical self regulation. reevaluate the stabilization appliance, adjust PRN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0/10</td>
<td>What do you do next?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons that could explain why your occlusal appliance reduced the muscle pain.

So why did the patient respond?

1. A change in the occlusal condition
2. A change in the condylar position
3. A change in the vertical dimension
4. A change in cognitive awareness
5. Altered sensory input to the CNS (bruxism)
6. Natural musculoskeletal recovery
7. Placebo effect
8. Regression to the mean

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Anatomy and Biomechanics of the Temporomandibular Joint - Function and Dysfunction -

- Tanaka
The directional forces of loading:

- Superior lateral pterygoid
- Inferior lateral pterygoid

Slightly opened mouth position

Full opened mouth position

Clinical signs of acute dislocation without reduction:

1. A positive history
2. Limited mouth opening (25-30 mm) (ipsilateral deflection)
3. Normal lateral movement to the ipsilateral side
4. Restricted lateral movement to the contralateral side
5. A sudden elimination of the click

Before (with reduction)  After (without reduction)
Two very important questions that influence treatment considerations.

1. What is the etiology of disc derangement disorders?
2. Are disc derangement disorders always progressive?

Etiology of Disc Derangement Disorders

1. Macrotrauma
   a. Gross trauma
   b. Iatrogenic trauma
2. Microtrauma
   a. Chronic Muscle hyperactivity
   b. Orthopedic Instability

Long-term Outcome of Disc Displacement with Reduction

- Conclusions from results of long-term studies -

Our goal should be to help the patient adapt the retrodiscal tissues by reducing loading forces.

1. Educating the patient to the problem
2. Reduce heavy chewing
3. Reduce non-functional tooth contacts
4. Appliance therapy
   Anterior positioning appliances may be helpful but only on a part time basis.

How should anterior positioning appliances be used in patients with anterior disc displacement with reduction?
Management of disc displacement with reduction

**Stabilization Appliance**
(always at night and when needed during day)

- No pain → Time, re-evaluate
- No further treatment indicated → Orthopedic instability
- Orthopedic stability → No dental therapy indicated

**Anterior Positioning Appliance**
(always at night and when needed during day)

- Reduces pain
- No change in pain

- No pain → Time, re-evaluate
- Decrease use of the appliance
- Return of pain → Pain returns

**Patient Evaluation**

- Clinical evaluation

**Management of disc displacement with reduction**

- No pain

- Pain reduction, allow more time

- Convert the APA to a SA

Long-term Outcome of Disc Displacement with reduction

- Conclusions from results of long-term studies:
  1. Educating the patient to the problem
  2. Reduce heavy chewing
  3. Reduce non-functional tooth contacts
  4. Appliance therapy

Anterior positioning appliances may be helpful but only on a part time basis. Permanent occlusal changes are seldom indicated.