

Temporomandibular Dysfunction And The Emotional Status Of 6-14 Years Old Saudi Female Children

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Abstract

Interest in pediatric temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) is increasing. Many studies on TMD prevalence among children in Western countries are available. This study aimed to assess the prevalence of TMD signs among randomly selected female Saudi children aged 6 to 14 years and to evaluate the effect, if any, of their emotional states on the development of TMD. The children (n = 696) underwent an examination which consisted of palpation of temporomandibular joints and associated musculature for tenderness, determination of the maximal vertical opening and deviation of the mandible upon opening. Results showed that 17.1% of the children had at least one sign of TMD with joint sounds being the most frequent sign (13.9%). Restricted mouth opening was second in frequency (7.6%). Deviation upon opening as well as muscle tenderness to palpation were found infrequently. The prevalence of TMD is lower in the Saudi children than in some Caucasian populations. The results further revealed that children with nervous emotional states had a greater risk of developing signs of TMD than calm children. Therefore, it is suggested that emotional factors should be taken in consideration when treating these children.