



Holladay Physical Medicine

4211 Holladay Blvd. – Holladay, UT 84124 – (801) 272-8471

Bruce Gundersen, D.C., DIANM

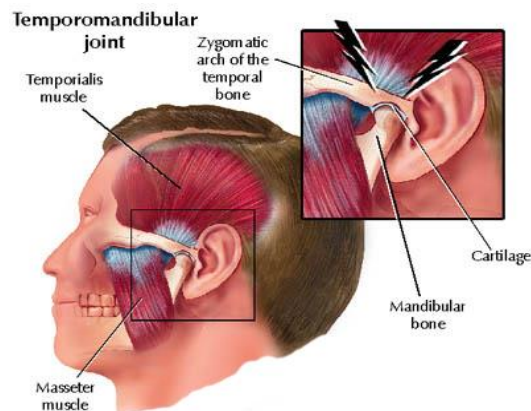
www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com

This Information is about this condition in general. Every individual has a unique presentation. Once you understand this information, consult the doctor on any specific questions about your condition.

TMJ SYNDROME

(Temporomandibular Joint)

The jaw joints, or temporomandibular joints (TMJ), connect the lower jawbone (mandible) to the skull. These flexible joints are used more than any other joint in the body. They allow the jaw to open



and close in a wide variety of movements, for talking, chewing, swallowing, and other functions. Many people have dysfunction and pain in and around the jaw joints at some point during their lives. Collectively termed “temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, or syndromes” these joint and muscle problems are complex and not completely understood.

What are common symptoms of temporomandibular joint disorders?

TMJ disorders can affect the jaw and jaw joint as well as muscles in the face, shoulder, head, and neck. Common symptoms include joint pain, muscle pain, neck pain, headaches, joint sounds, difficulty with fully opening the mouth, and jaw locking.

Approximately 12% of people who have TMJ disorders develop chronic (long-lasting) symptoms. Any chronic pain or difficulty moving the jaw may affect talking, eating, and swallowing, thus affecting a person's overall sense of well-being.

What causes temporomandibular joint disorders?

The most common cause of TMJ disorder symptoms is muscle tension, often triggered by stress. Stress-related habits, such as clenching or grinding your teeth (bruxism), can tire the jaw muscles and lead to a cycle of muscle spasm, tissue damage, pain, muscle tenderness, and more spasm. Another common cause of TMJ syndrome is dysfunction of the joint, joint capsule or the disc inside the joint.

This can cause symptoms such as popping, clicking or catching in the jaw. Any alteration in the biomechanics of the joint whether it is due to muscle spasm or joint dysfunction can cause inflammation, stiffness, and pain.

TMJ disorders can initially develop when there is a problem with the joint itself, such as:

- Injury to the joint or surrounding tissues.
- Structural problems in the joint.
- Degenerative joint disease, such as osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.
- Disc displacement within the joint.

How is a temporomandibular joint disorder diagnosed?

Your Chiropractic health professional can assess your condition with a physical exam and health history. Specific examination of the soft tissues of the jaw, assessment of joint mechanics and range of motion of the jaw are used to accurately diagnose TMJ syndrome. In some cases, an X-ray, CT scan, or MRI is also used to check for bone or soft tissue problems related to temporomandibular joint disorder symptoms.

How is temporomandibular joint disorder treated?

TMJ disorder can be treated by reducing muscle tension and stress on the jaw by therapeutic soft tissue massage, applying hot moist compresses to painful areas, and restoring proper joint mechanics by adjusting the TMJ. Adjusting the TMJ is also effective in relocating a displaced capsule or disc. Physiotherapy modalities such as ultrasound and low level electric stimulation are also effective in correcting soft tissue injury and joint dysfunction. Initially, resting the jaw joint, short-term use of anti-inflammatory medications, and eating soft foods can help reduce pain. Stress-reduction skills training may also help to reduce pain and TMJ problems. Continue to use some of these strategies over time to prevent and manage recurring symptoms.

If your pain is chronic or severe or is caused by structural problems, such as joint degeneration or disc displacement, your Chiropractic health professional may recommend additional treatments. Some treatments, such as surgery or reshaping or shaving down the teeth, need to be considered carefully because they are irreversible and can even damage the TMJ.

USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

We do not prescribe drugs nor recommend their use if harmful side-effects are associated with your complaints. We also do not, in any case, recommend changes in the use of prescription drugs that a licensed physician has given you. If you believe alterations in those prescriptions are in the best interest of your health, always consult with the prescribing physician before making any changes.

NUTRITION AND SUPPLEMENTATION:

The ideal situation for nutrition in any injury or disease is first to eat whole foods, and to avoid processed foods, fast foods preservatives, refined carbohydrates and sugar. We have much information on our web page under Absolute Health Clinic. The physical medicine modalities we will provide you will help reduce the symptoms in the time we have projected. If you want to heal, this step is something you will need to take.

Nowadays, even if you do all of those things, you need to realize that our food supply has been gradually depleted. The pure ingredients needed to maintain body function, metabolism and immunity have been drastically reduced. We recommend only whole food supplements. Studies are clear that synthetic vitamins and mineral supplements are not only not helpful to the body in most cases, but can be toxic. Don't expect them to take the place of what we recommend here. They will not help you sufficiently to heal properly. The following list has been prioritized to help you gradually begin to supplement your improved diet and provide your body with the ingredients it needs to restore or improve your immune response and then provide the raw materials in usable form to repair the damaged or diseased tissue. The degree to which you can implement these items will largely determine how fast you recover and more importantly whether or not you have a recurrence or relapse of the symptoms again soon.

These products are all produced by Standard Process. You may obtain them on line from Amazon or other distributors if you like or we can order them for you and save you an average of \$5 per bottle plus you can avoid shipping charges.

GENERAL DAILY SUPPLEMENTS

- Catalyn
- Tuna Omega-3 oil
- Calcium Lactate
- Trace Minerals B12
- Cataplex D
- Prolamine Iodine

SPECIFIC FOR THIS CONDITION

- Biost
- Glucosamine Sulphate
- Ligaplex II
- Calcifood

Specific dosages will be provided by the doctor.

We have many other specific items for a variety of health deficient conditions. Consult our web page or ask the doctor.

HOME REMEDIES AND MEDICINES

After the first 1-3 days when you should be using 5-8 minutes of cold packs, utilize moist heat packs on a daily basis during the first phase of treatment. 15 minutes is the maximum therapeutic dose for heat in this condition. The application may be repeated with at least 15 minutes of non-heat rest in

between. This will help relax tight muscle fibers and bring blood to the region. Hot tubs and baths with Epsom salts provide temporary relief.

The use of over-the-counter medications for pain and inflammation may be seen as necessary at first depending on your pain level and tolerance. Understand that we depend on your natural immune response to function well in order to heal this disorder. Some pain relievers and most anti-inflammatory medications shut off the inflammatory response which is what triggers your body's immune response mechanisms. If you need pain medicines of any kind to continue to function or to be able to do the exercise routines we have recommended, use good judgement in when you use them. We strongly suggest you consider ice packs for 5-10 minutes for pain relief and mechanical positioning of the injured areas to relieve pressure and pain. The more you are able to do these procedures and avoid medications, the faster your immune response will be effective and the sooner you will be out of pain and begin healing. The sooner you can stop taking pain medication, the better it will be for your healing.

EXERCISES:

Exercises should be specific, performed at the right time and in a particular order. They should be simple and aimed at pain relief and stabilization at first. Seek advice from your chiropractic physician on when to do these exercises and how often. When performed correctly, rehabilitation exercises can be the key to avoiding multiple episodes of pain and maintaining the function of the muscles and joints.

Our goal here is to have you begin exercises as soon as the joint mobility has been restored sufficiently. Consistent and proper exercise rehabilitation will shorten your treatment time and help reduce recurrence of the same disorder.

We offer a video training featuring exercises specifically designed and proven effective if properly performed for the rehabilitation of this condition. These video files are available on our web page at www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com ---follow that link, then the exercise pulldown menu at the top center of the home page, choose therapeutic and then scroll down to:

neck

and perform them daily as soon as you can work it into your schedule. Along with the physical medicine we have recommended, it is the regular performance of these exercises that will get you well and keep you well.

MAINTENANCE:

Regular spinal adjustments and mild forms of physical therapy are important to reduce the symptoms on a regular basis. Patients who receive monthly spinal manipulation and therapy report fewer complications and improved life style. It is important that you follow your chiropractic physician's advice about the frequency of treatment for your particular condition.

OTHER INFORMATION:

We offer a wide variety of health information at our web site. www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com
All patients are welcome to use our information to improve your life and maintain your spinal health.

This information is provided to you as a health service by Dr. Bruce Gundersen, DC, DIANM. He is board certified by the International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and currently serves as chairman of the examination board for the Academy. He is also the President of the Utah College of Chiropractic Orthopedists and clinical director and chief clinician at Holladay Physical Medicine. He has practiced physical and regenerative medicine for over 40 years.