

Editorial: Temporomandibular Disorders, Orofacial Pain, Bruxism, and Sleep Apnea *

Editorial: Desórdenes temporomandibulares, dolor orofacial, bruxismo y apnea del sueño

Editorial: Disfunções temporomandibulares, dor orofacial, bruxismo e apneia do sono

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SUMMARY

The second thematic dossier published by *Universitas Odontologica* in its 2023 volume 42 deals with temporomandibular disorders, orofacial pain, bruxism, and sleep apnea. The dossier brings together works that were approved after the methodological evaluation process by the editors and double-blind peer review by expert peers. The international experts who served as guest editors have affiliations in Argentina, Colombia, Spain, and Uruguay. The dossier includes six articles, out of eight received, on topics such as diagnostic methods, morphological changes due to the use of functional appliances, bruxism and condylar position, sleep disorders, and snoring treatment.

Keywords: bruxism; dentistry; sleep apnea; sleep disorders; temporomandibular disorders

RESUMEN

El segundo dossier temático que publica *Universitas Odontologica* en su volumen 42 de 2023 trata acerca de los trastornos temporomandibulares, el dolor orofacial, el bruxismo, y la apnea del sueño. El dossier reúne trabajos que fueron aprobados después de los procesos de evaluación metodológica por los editores y de arbitraje doble ciego por pares expertos. Los expertos internacionales que sirvieron como editores invitados provienen de Argentina, Colombia, España y Uruguay. El dossier incluye seis artículos, de ocho recibidos, en temas como métodos diagnósticos, cambios morfológicos por el uso de aparatos funcionales, bruxismo y posición condilar, alteraciones del sueño y tratamiento del ronquido.

Palabras clave: apnea del sueño; bruxismo; desórdenes temporomandibulares; odontología; trastornos del sueño; trastornos temporomandibulares

RESUMO

O segundo dossiê temático publicado pela *Universitas Odontológica* em seu volume 42 de 2023 trata de disfunções temporomandibulares, dores orofaciais, bruxismo e apneia do sono. O dossiê reúne trabalhos que foram aprovados após processo de avaliação metodológica pelos editores, e arbitragem duplo-cega por pares especialistas. Os especialistas internacionais que atuaram como editores convidados têm afiliações na Argentina, Colômbia, Espanha e Uruguai. O dossiê inclui seis artigos, dos oito recebidos, sobre temas como métodos diagnósticos, alterações morfológicas devido ao uso de aparelhos funcionais, bruxismo e posição condilar, distúrbios do sono e tratamento do ronco.

Palavras-chave: apneia do sono; bruxismo; distúrbios temporomandibulares; odontologia; distúrbios do sono

INTRODUCTION

The second thematic dossier that *Universitas Odontologica* published in 2023 was dedicated to the topic of temporomandibular disorders, orofacial pain, bruxism, and sleep apnea. To do so, we asked the members of our editorial board and scientific academic committee to suggest the names of experts to call to serve as guest editors. We had a dream list: Patricia Schiemann, alumna and former professor of Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, who is an expert in orofacial pain and temporomandibular joint; Gerardo Ruales-Suárez, a Javeriana alumnus, university professor in Barcelona, Spain, and doctor in posturology; Mauricio Duarte-Orozco, a Javeriana alumnus, oral rehabilitator with a master's degree in physiology and craneomaxilar pain and professor at the National University of Colombia; Marcelo Kreiner, expert in craniomandibular function and orofacial pain and professor at the University of the Republic of Uruguay; and Daniel Paesani, Argentinean, professor at the University of El Salvador and expert in bruxism and sleep disorders.

The terms of the call for the dossier were the following (1):

Temporomandibular disorders (TMDs) have been reported to have a prevalence of 31% in adults and 11% in children/adolescents worldwide [2]. This group of more than 30 conditions affects the temporomandibular joint and muscles of the stomatognathic system. In addition to pain, TMDs generate functional problems of the stomatognathic system, mandibular movements, border areas such as the neck, and other parts of the body. They are associated with conditions such as bruxism, functional habits, dentocraniomaxillary anatomies, neuropathic disorders, sleep disorders, and pathologies.

It is interesting to recognize that there are different schools of thought regarding the definition, etiology, treatment, and study of TMDs. For example, with respect to bruxism, there are schools such as: 1) the orofacial pain school, which identifies it as a pathology and divides it into two conditions; 2) the school of progressive wear as a parafunction due to poor initial conditions; 3) the school of physiological functioning of the person; 4) the school of a condition of the stomatognathic system; and 5) the school of response of the autonomic nervous system to specific deficiencies in order to improve its response. On the other hand, when asked what a functional habit is, it is said that they are learned behaviors. However, this goes beyond reflection, if the type of movement that the system performs is considered a habit. So, is it a reflex action and, as such, cannot be changed; is it a non-integrated primary reflex (aberrant reflex) that generates a limited but functional movement; is it an integrated (postural) reflex that generates a movement with the capacity to be perfected; is it a stereotyped ballistic movement; or is it the expression of an emotion? All of these movements can be habits and all of them are shown differently in TMDs. Dentocraniofacial anatomy is also understood in different ways. For example, asymmetry can or cannot be seen as a condition for a person to lose functionality. Even so, it is the norm in the population. Talking about anatomies as a consequence of development could be the way forward, although specificity is needed regarding the types of pathologies that condition TMDs. Thus, research on TMDs focuses on its etiology, symptomatology, diagnosis, and treatment, often by interdisciplinary teams, with various functional, physiopathological, occlusal, psychological, pharmacological, and surgical approaches. It can also be addressed from the formulation of health policies, basic research and bioinformatics, forensic work, and health administration.

Therefore, all undergraduate and graduate students who are conducting research on TMD, as well as professionals, educators, and researchers, are invited to submit their studies for evaluation and possible publication in the dossier ***Temporomandibular Disorders, Orofacial Pain, Bruxism, and Sleep Apnea*** to be published in volume 42 of ***Universitas Odontologica*** in 2023. Case descriptions supported by structured literature reviews, reviews of specific topics that use structured and exhaustive analysis of world and Latin American literature, and research in the different areas of application (clinical, basic, population, teaching, etc.) for the diagnosis, management, and prevention of TMD will be received.

As a result of the international call, we received eight papers, of which we are publishing six that completed the methodological and international peer review processes (double-blind arbitration). The authors of the articles received for this dossier came from Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain and the United States. In the end, and as we have been doing since 2020 (volume 39), we translated the articles and published them in English. Topics in the dossier include diagnostic methods, morphological changes due to the use of functional appliances, bruxism and condylar position, sleep disorders and snoring treatment.

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* Editorial

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