

## **Diagnostic and Therapeutic Concepts in Patients with Craniomandibular Disorders**

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In complex cases patients do not only need occlusal rehabilitation because pain symptoms are the main problem. So pre-treatment modalities, especially for pain management are of utmost importance.

In complex cases myofunctional and articulation disorders as well as postural problems are common. Such cases need an interdisciplinary management encompassing the phoniatriest, the logopedist, physiotherapy, myofunctional therapy as well as orthodontic and prosthodontic treatment. It is important to realize that a definitive treatment plan should not be established before harmony of the musculoskeletal system is achieved.

Occlusal rehabilitation should always follow diagnostic procedures and pre-treatment therapy. In some cases splint therapy determines the physiologic mandibular position. In order to that, a definitive treatment plan cannot be established before splint therapy is finished.

Clinical screening methods which enable the dentist to differential diagnose craniomandibular pain symptoms and to distinguish between an "easy" and a "complex" case are of utmost importance.

The anamnestic investigation reveals pain, joint sounds, restricted mouth opening capacity and postural problems.

Instrumental investigation, especially axiography shows the dynamics of joint movement and can be well combined with MRI which reveals TMJ structures.

Interdisciplinary therapy encompasses physiotherapy as well as phoniatriy, splint therapy and in some cases psychologic/psychiatric interventions.

The outcome of different therapeutic approaches will be shown in the lecture.