



SA/NT RACDS Regional Committee

Virtual Scientific Webinar Series 2022

The general dentist in comprehensive dental care

SURGERY OF THE TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT

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Abstract

Most of you will see and look after many patients who have TMJ problems. There is a need for a systematic and thorough examination along with correct special tests to correctly diagnose TMJ problems and treat them correctly. If there is a habit, muscle dysfunction, or psychological component these patients can be treated conservatively and with the help from other professionals. Physiotherapy, bite splint therapy, and NSAIDs are usually the first line of treatment, however, sometimes muscle dysfunction can be helped with Botox injections into the muscles involved. However, internal derangements can be difficult to treat, and some will respond to conservative treatment and others will not, in which case surgery may be required. In many cases involving arthritis, this can also be treated conservatively, often with the help of a rheumatologist, but the end-stage disease will require surgery.

The Anatomy and function of the TMJ are complex and are an articulation between the mandible and the base of the skull. There are two jaw joints connected by a flexible mandible which can deform under load and these forces along with other systemic and local diseases can cause significant TMJ problems.

This lecture is aimed at discussing the possible TMJ problems that can be treated by surgery using the surgical seive and to discuss the surgery involved. These surgical procedures range from arthrocentesis, arthroscopy, disc reposition surgery through to Total Joint replacements for end stage disease.