



New Horizons in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Temporomandibular Disorders: A Biopsychosocial Perspective

Dear Colleagues,

Guest Editor



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Temporomandibular disor ders; Orofacial pain; Sleep disorders; Systemic inflammation

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The field of temporomandibular disorders (TMD) is as complex and dynamic as the disease itself. The concept of its diagnosis and treatment is evolving rapidly and keeping our level of knowledge up to date is essential for optimal treatment results and further development.

TMD, as a diverse group of conditions affecting the temporomandibular joint, masticatory muscles, and associated structures, is a common musculoskeletal disease. However, despite its high prevalence the diagnosis and treatment of TMD still remain complex and often is based on empirical knowledge. This is partially due to the multifactorial nature of the condition itself and the fact that its clinical characteristics are influenced by a myriad of biological, psychological, and social factors.

This special issue, New Horizons in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Temporomandibular Disorders: A Biopsychosocial Perspective, seeks to address the gaps in our understanding of the underlying mechanism of TMD and related conditions and its diagnosis and management through an integrative lens. The biopsychosocial model recognizes that TMD can no longer be adequately explained or treated based on a purely biological and mechanical approach as psychological conditions and emotional health along with social context have a significant impact on symptom severity and treatment prognosis. On the other hand, evidence on the role of immunological and endocrinological aberrations is accumulating showing that multiple systems once not known to play an active role in TMD pathogenesis are involved and frequently play a pivotal role in the onset and progression of TMD.

The importance of this issue lies in presenting multidisciplinary research and clinical knowledge that consider the interplay of these dimensions in a comprehensive manner. This special issue aims to highlight innovations in diagnostic tools encompassing imaging and biomarkers alongside therapeutic strategies not limited to conventional methods including behavioral and pharmacological interventions to move on to an interdisciplinary model.

This special issue shall foster collaboration among researchers and clinicians of diverse fields and inspire future investigations, to further develop personalized care for TMD patients that will reduce disease chronicity and eventually enhance the quality of life for those with TMD.

Regards,

Dr. Ji Woon Park

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