Does successful TMD-treatment improve concurrent headache complaints in TMD patients?

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Introduction

Temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and headache are co-morbid disorders.

It is unknown if a successful TMD-treatment will lead to an improvement of the headache for different headache types.

The aim of this study is to determine if the change in orofacial pain (OFP) and the change in headache in patients with TMD-pain are the same over time during TMD-treatment.

Methods

Multi-disciplinary usual care:
Physical therapy, splint, counseling, psychology

Inclusion:
Patients with TMD-pain and headache

Outcomes (collected by email)
Graded Chronic Pain Scale (GCPS)
- Chronic Pain Intensity (CPI)
- Disability Score (DS)

Statistics
- Repeated Measures ANOVA for CPI and DS with factor time (4) and factor type of pain (OFP & headache)
- Stratified for headache types: migraine, tension-type headache (TTH) and secondary headache attributed to TMD (SHTMD)

Results

A total of 39 participants completed the questionnaires on all four moments in time. Most were female (82%) and had migraine (38.5%) followed by TTH (30.8%) and secondary headache attributed to TMD (30.8%).

CPI improved over time in patients with migraine and TTH for both OFP and headache.

Disability score only improved for patients with migraine for both OFP and headache.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE
A successful TMD-treatment decreases orofacial pain and headache, as well as self-reported disability in patients with migraine.