

Special Issue

Temporomandibular Joint Imaging

Message from the Guest Editors

Orofacial pain and temporomandibular disorders are very frequent conditions. Temporomandibular disorder (TMD) covers a number of clinical problems that include the masticatory muscles, the TMJ, and the associated structures. The AAOP classifies TMD in two groups: muscular and articular. If clinical examination is sufficient for muscle disorders, imaging exams are sometimes required for proper diagnosis in cases of TMJ disorders. Multiple imaging techniques have been indicated for the diagnosis of TMJ pathology, including conventional radiology, conventional computer tomography (CT), cone beam CT, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and high-resolution ultrasonography. MRI is considered the standard of reference for soft-tissue examination of TMJ (diagnosis of disc displacement, synovitis, effusion, degenerative changes). CT is useful in the detection of osseous changes of TMJ bony structures (fractures, tumors, growth development anomalies). High-resolution ultrasonography has been indicated by some studies as a useful imaging technique in the diagnosis of TMJ disc displacements and effusion.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 October 2022)



Life

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.0
Indexed in PubMed



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