

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comments to the Paper “Occlusal Interferences: How Can This Concept Influence the Clinical Practice?”

In the aforementioned paper¹ the authors performed a brief review about “the role of occlusal interferences on the development and progression of temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) and postural disorders”. This review shows a clear bias with several articles favoring the cited relationships (Dental Occlusion, Temporomandibular Disorders and Postural Dysfunction), whereas relevant papers that question these same relationships²⁻¹⁷ were ignored. Because of this bias the statements that “occlusal interferences can play an important role in the development of TMDs” and “the relevance of the occlusal adjustment on the treatment of TMDs should be reevaluated”, seem not based in actual scientific literature, but rather only reflect the authors' personal point of view.

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Author's response

First, we would like to thank the comments regarding our manuscript. We feel that this type of discussion is helpful in scientific setting. However, we have several points to argue. One of them is the studies mentioned by the commentaries. Some manuscripts are not related to the occlusal interferences as a main problem, but instead, linked to a malocclusion in specific population or jaw muscle pain, points that are related to the Temporomandibular Dysfunctions (TMDs).^{1,2} Another mentioned study made conclusions using few patients in its evaluation, which can restrict the results obtained by the manuscript.³ Additionally, we excluded from our review comments respect to others studies⁴ because, this information represents personal point of view, and could not be cited as scientific data.

We, at any moment, assure the fact that the occlusal interferences are the main etiologic factor of the TMDs, but as shown by scientific data, which the occlusal interferences can be involved in some TMDs cases. As the commentary's authors cited, and the brief review conclude "the relevance of the occlusal adjustment on the treatment of TMDs should be reevaluated". With this, the authors would lead the readers to evaluate all factors related to TMDs, including the occlusal interferences.

One fact that should be considered is that several articles were presented,⁵⁻¹⁸ showed through accurate scientific methods, that occlusal interferences can be involved in the TMD, at least, as a risk factor, clearly demonstrating that our conclusions are based on actual scientific literature, not only reflecting the authors' personal point of

view.

Finally, the article "Occlusal Interferences: How Can This Concept Influence the Clinical Practice?" was presented as a brief review and not as a systematic review, and it is true that several reports were omitted, since the literature about Temporomandibular Dysfunctions is extensive and, like cited in the manuscript, a controversial issue.

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