

Clinical evaluation of a new functional prosthesis for TMJ pain.

S. SCENNA*, G. ROVERE, M. CORIGLIANO A. PIATTELLI

(Dental School, University of Chieti, Italy).

Aim of the present study was an evaluation of a new functional prosthesis used in the treatment of TMJ pain. 450 patients (311 females, 139 males), aged between 18 and 65 years (mean age 37 years), with TMJ pain were evaluated. The patients were followed for 30 months. The prosthesis used (MIOSET, AR.TE.MA., Italy) is made by a thermoplastic material with a rubbery consistency and a high resiliency, and was put between the dental dental arches of the patients (premolar and molar regions). The patients used the prosthesis, in the first week, for 2 hours 3 times a day, and subsequently as much as they could. All the patients underwent a check-up at 15, 30, 90 and 180 days, and were studied using the pain analog scale and the biopack (Bioresearch, Milwaukee, USA). The results were judged:

- a) good, when there was a complete disappearance of signs and symptoms;
- b) sufficient, when there was a significant decrease;
- c) bad, when there was no variation.

The results were as follows: after 15 days of treatment 33% of the patients were in category a) 60% in category b) and 7% in category c) while after 30 days 42% were in a), 29% in b) and 12% in c); after 180 days, 63% were in a), 25% in b) and 12% in c).

These preliminary results could point to the fact that this prosthesis could be useful in the treatment of TMJ pain.