



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

2024 OCT CCSS: Fostering Quality and Excellence in Military Specific Care

S06: Enhancing Temporomandibular Disorder and Comorbidity Care in the Military Health System

Resource List

The physical and psychological effects of war are not always easy to detect, but they can be far-reaching and long-lasting. One of the physical effects that may result from war stress is temporomandibular disorder (TMD). The objective of the article [Post-traumatic stress, prevalence of temporomandibular disorders in war veterans: Systematic review with meta-analysis](#) (2023) was to evaluate the prevalence of TMD sign and symptoms among war veterans diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Through the author's systematic review of four studies they posit that war can cause lasting physical and psychological damage, leading to chronic disease. They indicate their results demonstrate that war exposure increased the risk of developing TMJ dysfunction and TMD signs/symptoms.

The article titled [The Organ of Vision and the Stomatognathic System-Review of Association Studies and Evidence-Based Discussion](#) (2021) reviews how the stomatognathic system is a functional complex of tissues and organs located within the oral and craniofacial cavities. The craniofacial anatomical factors and the biomechanics of the temporomandibular joints affect many systems throughout the body, including the organ of vision. Few scientific reports have shown a relationship between the organ of vision and the stomatognathic system. The purpose of this review is to provide an overview of connections along neural, muscle-fascial, and biochemical pathways between the organ of vision and the stomatognathic system. According to the current knowledge, it is not possible to indicate the main linking pathway; presumably, it may be a combination of several presented pathways. The awareness of this relationship among dentists, ophthalmologists, physiotherapists, and optometrists should increase for the better diagnosis and treatment of patients.



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Temporomandibular disorders (TMDs) have been associated with other chronic painful conditions (e.g., fibromyalgia, headache) and suicide and mood disorders. The authors of [Relationships Between Temporomandibular Disorders, MSD Conditions, and Mental Health Comorbidities: Findings from the Veterans Musculoskeletal Disorders Cohort](#) (2018) examined musculoskeletal, painful, and mental health comorbidities in men vs women veterans with TMD (compared with non-TMD musculoskeletal disorders [MSDs] cases), as well as comorbidity patterns within TMD cases. Results indicated non-MSD comorbidities (e.g., irritable bowel syndrome, mental health, headaches) were significantly associated with TMD in male veterans; their pattern was similar in women. Veterans with back pain, nontraumatic joint disorder, or osteoarthritis had more MSD multimorbidity than those with TMD.



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References

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