

Lake Texoma Dental Care & Wellness
903-465-4055

Jaw Discomfort Associated with Dental Procedures
Jaw Dysfunction (TMJ Syndrome)

It has become widely recognized and accepted by advanced dentistry that excessive unbalanced chewing pressures accompanied by clenching and/or grinding of the teeth causes severe damage to the teeth and supporting structures of the jaw and gums. This problem has quickly risen to share one of the top three diseases that lead to tooth death and loss along with decay and gum disease.

It has been estimated that as many as 90% of the adult United States population suffers from the disease of clenching and/or grinding of the teeth. Most never know of their problem until excessive tooth wear or movement has occurred and symptoms of tired or sore jaws and/or worn and broken teeth begin to be noticed. Headaches are also very common.

It is not uncommon to aggravate the jaw joint (TMJ) and associated muscles of mastication during any dental procedure. This aggravation of the TMJ joint is a result of having the mouth extended open and/or having teeth restored, modified, or replaced. This can lead to soreness and discomfort of the jaw and related muscles, and discomfort of the teeth, gums and supporting structures.

The teeth shift and change over time during the life of an individual. This can put a patient at risk for both jaw and/or tooth discomfort after any dental procedure. The patient may or may not be aware of any problems prior to the procedure. Likewise, the doctor may or may not be able to accurately determine the patient's true potential of having a problem after treatment.

In most cases of discomfort following a dental procedure the problem will last only 2 to 6 weeks. It is easily treated with minor adjustments to the teeth, a soft modified diet, exercises, and medications. However, these problems can be persistent for a much longer period of time and require additional treatments at additional cost to the patient. It can even lead to time off from work and limited activities.

If you have any knowledge of current or past jaw related problems please let Dr. McAnaney know so he can discuss this with you prior to dental procedures.

If you begin to experience jaw, muscle, or tooth pain after a dental procedure you should contact Dr. McAnaney immediately so an assessment can be made. Phone 903-465-4055.

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the above information.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____