

FUNCTIONAL DISORDERS OF THE TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINTS AS A CREATION FACTOR OF SLEEP APNEA.

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Functional disorders of the temporomandibular joints in contemporary population are recognized by the WHO as the third most common dental disease after caries and periodontological diseases. It is believed that these disorders concern 84% of the adult population. However, these disorders are more common for people who are over 65 years old and may affect up to 100% of the population in this age group. We studied 150 patients aged 35-70 (av. age 46.5). All patients were diagnosed in the years 2006-2010 in the Department of Dental Prothetics of PMU because of suspicion of more or less advanced form of functional stomatognathic disorders especially the temporomandibular joints. Advance of disorder was determined using the Helkimo factor. 112 patients were diagnosed with advanced temporomandibular joints dysfunction and the occurrence of an early form of sleep apnea. The results of the study showed that the advance of sleep apnea was directly proportional to the duration and severity of temporomandibular joints dysfunction. Most patients did not associate night-time symptoms of sleep apnea with stomatognathic system abnormalities.