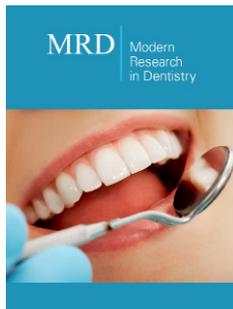


Self-Care Management in Myofascial Pain Dysfunction Syndrome

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Introduction

Laskin introduced the term Myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome (MPDS) and reemphasized that the disease entity is primarily in the muscles and only secondarily a joint problem. It is one of the commonest causes of chronic pain in oro-facial region. It is the most common form of temporomandibular disorders [1] that primarily involves the muscles of mastication. Most authors recommend a multidisciplinary approach for the treatment of MPDS. Because of the multifactorial nature of the MPDS, the treatment for any given patient will vary. These therapies include: Supportive therapy, Pharmacotherapy, Physical therapies [2-5]. In this, self care management is very important aspect to relieve pain in day to day life. It includes patient education and guidelines, home exercise regime.

Patients must know about the disease in detail then only he understands its management part very well. Patient should be aware of their unconscious postural, swallowing, clenching habits and he must give up his oral habits (eg, tooth clenching, chewing gum) from his daily routine which may be a source of muscle pain [3]. It might be eliminated by simple types of emotional stress therapy i.e. patient awareness, restrictive use, voluntary avoidance, relaxation therapy etc. [4]. Elimination of hard and sticky food helps to reduce loading forces on the joints which provides muscles relaxation. Diet is one of the most simple and important aspect of non surgical management. Patient should make a habit of placing the tip of the tongue behind the upper anterior teeth and keep the teeth slightly apart; keep this position when the jaw is not being working.

The purpose of exercise therapy is to maintain or increase mobility of soft tissues, muscles, and joints. Passive and active stretching movements are important in maintaining full range of motion. Isotonic and isometric exercises are taught to patients as part of a home program. These exercises regime includes opening, protrusion, and lateral excursion movement against resistance and are advised to do for 15 to 30 days. Manual Massage therapy is also helpful. Alternatively, hot and cold formantation is also advisable to the patients to reduce pain. It use as an adjacent therapy with exercise regime [4-9].

Guidelines for the patients for quick recovery [6-9].

1. Do not clench while driving, studying, doing computer work, athletic activities and reading.
2. Do not lean on the chin.
3. Patients should be lying in straight position not in lareral position (affected side).
4. During yawning, support your jaw by placing your hand over the chin.
5. Avoid eating those food that require wide opening. Patient used to chew bitateraly.
6. In case of acute pain avoid dental treatment, which is not required.

Following these instructions is in interest of patients for overall well-being.

Self-care program having home exercise plus pharmacotherapy, supportive therapy combination with self-massage is effective for improving pain-free daily activity functions. Patients are further required to visit hospital every month till the time of total recovery..

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