

Symposium

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO DIFFERENTIAL  
DIAGNOSTICS OF TEMPOROMANDIBULAR  
DISORDERS

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# TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS – A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

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The third symposium on temporomandibular disorders was organized in December 2009 by the Division for Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The topic was dedicated to the scientific approach to differential diagnostics of temporomandibular disorders. A number of renowned experts in the field gave interesting lectures, taking a multidisciplinary approach to this issue. The main purpose of the symposium was to lay scientific foundations for differential diagnostics of temporomandibular disorders.

Temporomandibular disorders belong to the more challenging diseases of the modern population regarding diagnostics, treatment and prognosis, both in adults and in children. Temporomandibular dysfunctions, which present various symptoms, are the consequence of temporomandibular disorders. One of the most common symptoms, certainly most unpleasant to patients, is pain. It is frequently of clear etiology but sometimes it can be completely unknown. Therefore, a large number of researchers and clinicians deal with this issue. Also, throughout the world, there are organized teams within health and scientific-teaching institutions dedicated to this field.

This subject matter requires team work and a multidisciplinary approach, timely recognition and wise selection of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Previous experience shows that the issue of temporomandibular disorders is partly intertwined with other medical fields such as dental medicine, otorhinolaryngology, neurology, psychiatry, rheumatology, physiatry, radiology, etc. This explains why a clear understanding of this issue has not been attained yet, in spite of increased knowledge of this field. To be more precise, the overall knowledge and experience in this field are 'scattered' throughout the above mentioned disciplines, whereas the need for better communication among specialists and subspecialists, clinicians and scientists in the relevant fields has

unfortunately not been sufficiently recognized. This results in a lack of efficient coordination and development according to the needs.

It is for these very reasons that this symposium was dedicated to this subject, which could, due to its contents, have professional and scientific implications for an even better understanding, treatment and prevention of temporomandibular disorders. It could also enhance multidisciplinary cooperation. The program of the symposium was created for different profiles of experts in the field of dental medicine and medicine with intention to address this issue from clinical and scientific points of view and to obtain results which could improve standards of health care.

The modern approach to patients with temporomandibular disorders should be multidisciplinary. This symposium was essential for emphasizing the importance of scientific multidisciplinary approach to treatment of patients with temporomandibular disorder. Additionally, it stressed the fact that only evidence based medical procedures enable the appropriate approach to diagnostics and treatment of temporomandibular disorders.