

## PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT TMJ

The source of your problem may very well be a tiny joint located where the jaw meets the skull, the temporomandibular joint (or TMJ). If the TMJ is the slightest bit out of alignment, then something as common as everyday tension can cause the muscles around the TMJ to tighten. This can result not only in headache pain, but pain in other areas as well, including the jaw and ears, not to mention clicking and popping sounds when you open and close your mouth.

This information is designed to make your entry into this TMJ practice as smooth, educated and uncomplicated as possible. Dr. West chooses to approach this complicated field from a team approach, which means either prior to, or during your treatment, you may be asked to see other specialists, the reasons will be explained to you and the specialists will be contacted.

Because proper diagnosis is important for evaluation of the TMJ, the sequencing of your treatment, in most cases, is as follows:

1. Detailed History
2. Physical Examination
3. Diagnostic Studies
4. Specialist Consultation consisting of, but not limited to:
  - a. Orthodontic Consultation
  - b. Psychological Evaluation
  - c. Physical Therapy Evaluation
  - d. Dental Examination
  - e. Neurology Consultation
  - f. Rheumatology Consultation
5. Surgical Approach consisting of, but not limited to:
  - a. TMJ Arthroscopic Surgery
  - b. TMJ Arthroplastic Surgery

The details of each of the above steps as you approach them will be explained and, of course, all of your questions answered. Time will be spent on detailed, informed consent and you will be asked to sign an operative permit. In most cases, treatment of TMJ disorders will be covered by major medical insurance. This office will assist you by pre-determining insurance coverage on all surgical cases. Surgical fees are given early in the treatment plan, enabling us to make financial arrangements with you in advance of the surgery. Our Patient Representative will spend time explaining your financial obligations to you.

Dr. West and his staff hope that this information has been helpful to you and we are looking forward to knowing you better as you progress through your treatment. The following TMJ Questionnaire needs to be completed prior to meeting with Dr. West for your initial consultation.

**TMJ QUESTIONNAIRE**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How long has this been present? \_\_\_\_\_

Was there an event which you believe may have helped cause this? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe: Accident/Trauma \_\_\_\_\_

Dental Treatment \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery \_\_\_\_\_

Stress \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Is the pain CONSTANT OR INTERMITTENT? (circle one)

Does it hurt to move your jaw? Yes No To Chew? Yes No

Does the problem limit your function? Yes No

If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_

When is the pain worse? Morning Afternoon Evening

Does anything you do make the pain worse? \_\_\_\_\_

Does anything you do make the pain better? \_\_\_\_\_

What other doctors or health care associates have you seen regarding this problem? \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any type of treatment have you had for this problem:

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_ Orthotics: \_\_\_\_\_

Orthodontics: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Therapy: \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

Occlusal Adjustment: \_\_\_\_\_ Counseling: \_\_\_\_\_

Splints: \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your jaw/joint make noise? Yes No When? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your jaw ever lock? Yes No In which position? Open Closed

How has this been treated? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you do anything to prevent or treat this? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you grind your teeth? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have or have you had any of the following? (place a check mark)

Sinus problems \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Changes \_\_\_\_\_ Stressful Job \_\_\_\_\_

Sensitive Teeth \_\_\_\_\_ Ringing in Ears \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Problems \_\_\_\_\_

Periodontal Disease \_\_\_\_\_ Dizziness \_\_\_\_\_ Trouble Sleeping \_\_\_\_\_

Headaches \_\_\_\_\_ Shoulder Pain \_\_\_\_\_ Ulcers \_\_\_\_\_

Migraines \_\_\_\_\_ Arthritis \_\_\_\_\_ Nervous Stomach \_\_\_\_\_

Neck Ache \_\_\_\_\_ Skin Diseases \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Ear Ache \_\_\_\_\_ Depression \_\_\_\_\_ Home Stress \_\_\_\_\_

List other medical problems: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On the scale below mark where your pain falls:

Most of the time with a line (/)

At its worse with a circle (o)

At its best or least with an (x)

0 25 50 75 100

|-----|-----|-----|-----|

no pain worst pain

imaginable

The pain is having this effect on my life:

0 25 50 75 100

|-----|-----|-----|-----|

no effect slight effect moderate effect severe effect cannot function

I can work/play Some days I Most days I at all

but aware of can't function can't function

the pain.

Please draw an outline on the area of your pain on the diagram below:

