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Occlusal Disease

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Occlusal disease is a comprehensive term for various symptoms caused by occlusal discrepancy between the habitual occlusal position (HOP) and muscular (MP) positions. These are referred to as temporomandibular disorders (TMDs); however, we like to use the term "occlusal disease" because these symptoms are strongly related to the discrepancy between HOP and MP. In 1959, Brill et al. postulated that the coincidence of the muscle and tooth (intercuspal) position constitutes a physiological condition, whereas the lack of a coincidence of these two positions may be indicative of a pathological condition. MP is defined as the position when the jaw is closed by voluntary muscular activity with an upright posture. HOP is an arbitrary closed position (tooth position). Generally, MP is coincident with HOP; however, in

some individuals, it is not, which results in the manifestation of various symptoms in these individuals. To alter a patient's occlusal habits and obtain a physiological muscular position, the bite plate-induced occlusal position (BPOP) is used for reference during voluntary jaw closing, while in an upright position, and after wearing an anterior bite plate for a short period of time. It has been reported that these two positions do not coincide in patients with the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) clicking sounds. Symptoms associated with occlusal disease include oral dyskinesia, glossodynia (painful tongue), burning mouth syndrome, tension-type headache, tinnitus, earache, coxalgia and vertigo. Some cases will be reported and the mechanisms of these symptoms will be discussed.

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