

OC.39 3D Cone Beam CT analysis of osteophytic neoformations in the temporomandibular joint

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Aim

The aim is to show the usefulness of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) in the study of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) of patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), especially if by CT scans reveal the presence of osteophytic growths otherwise not visible with conventional radiographic techniques.

Materials and Methods

Osteophyte is the medical term for a bone formation attempt to increase the articular surface of the load, it is the attempt to repair what the articulation performs to compensate for a bone defect or damage joint surfaces due to arthritis or trauma.

Results

The examination CBCT allows accurate morphological analysis of articular surfaces in the three planes of space TMJ, not previously possible with traditional two-dimensional X-ray methods. The analysis highlights both the changes on surfaces such as cortical erosions, flattening, sclerosis, osteophytes and joint space narrowing, and changes in mineralization of bone considered.

Conclusions

In Ra patients, the TMJ is commonly affected, but the diagnosis is often delayed due to lack of symptoms. In these cases, an CBCT provides the clinician with the advantage of highlighting condylar lesions as small scale and allows to establish appropriate therapy at an early stage, reducing complications for these patients.

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