



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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Artificial Jaw Joint Stands the Test of Time

[Rosemont, Illinois, May 1, 2015] Arthritis of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), the joint that works the lower jaw, is a common and severely debilitating condition. Patients frequently have severe chronic pain, are unable to open their mouth to properly chew food, and can have facial disfigurement. Before the advent of modern artificial jaw joint technology, little could be done to help these individuals. However, 20 years ago a better-engineered joint became available and after extensive research were placed in patients suffering from end-stage disease.

An article appearing in the May 2015 issue of the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, reviews patients with end-stage TMJ disease who underwent surgery two decades ago, and were fitted with a custom-designed artificial jaw joint. The computer-assisted designed and manufactured joints were custom fitted to the specific anatomic, functional, and esthetic requirements of each patient.

The authors from Texas A&M, Rush and St. Louis Universities reviewed the patients jaw function and joint pain, and measured quality of life (QoL) factors. The data demonstrated statistically significant improvements in jaw opening, TMJ pain, jaw function and diet, as well as improved QoL. Over 85% of the patients had significant improvement in outcomes compared to past therapies, showing the long-term benefits of modern custom-designed artificial jaw joints for patients with severe TMJ arthritis.

Read the complete study findings at *J Oral Maxillofac Surg.* 73:952-960, 2015.

The Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is published monthly by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons to present to the dental and medical communities comprehensive coverage of new techniques, important developments and innovative ideas in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Practice-applicable articles help develop the methods used to handle dentoalveolar surgery, facial injuries and deformities, TMJ disorders, oral cancer, jaw reconstruction, anesthesia and analgesia. The journal also includes specifics on new instruments and diagnostic equipment and modern therapeutic drugs and devices.