Psychological problems in patients with TMJ disorders

Results of a cross-sectional, quality of life evaluation show that orofacial pain takes a substantial toll on the daily life of patients with temporomandibular disorders. Researchers enrolled 80 patients with temporomandibular disorders (TMD) to determine the impact of pain on quality of life and which activities were most affected. A group of asymptomatic control subjects was also enrolled. Quality of life was measured using the Oral Health Impact Profile. The results were presented by Dr. Marzia Segu, University of Pavia, in Pavia, Italy, at the Annual Scientific Meeting on Orofacial Pain and Temporomandibular Disorders, in Washington, DC. There was a significant difference in quality of life between TMD patients and controls (p<0.05). Among TMD patients, a significant difference in quality of life was noted between those with seven or more versus those with seven or fewer symptoms (p<0.0001). No difference was seen between muscular and articular patients. TMD patients reported interrupted sleep (50 percent), difficulty relaxing (45 percent) and being upset (42.5 percent). Dental problems worried 57.5 percent of these patients. Difficulty chewing any food, even bread, was reported by 48.8 percent of TMD patients. Dr. Segu concluded that orofacial pain takes a substantial toll on the patient’s daily life, most commonly in the psychological domain.

F. Antonaci (Pavia)

The Trigeminal Neuralgia Association

Prior to the formation of the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association (TNA), most patients and their families knew very little about this disorder and the modes of treatment available. They had to cope not only with chronic pain, but with acute chronic pain and severe isolation -- in many cases, without hope or relief. The goals of the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association are to address this problem in the following ways:

♦ To increase public awareness and understanding of the problem.
♦ To serve as a resource and information center for current TN data.
♦ To facilitate and promote research on trigeminal neuralgia.
♦ To advocate for public policy which is supportive of the needs of those with rare disorders.

The Web page is available in Spanish, German, French and Portuguese at the address: https://www.tna-support.org/
what’s on...
♦ 26-30 June 2002, Istanbul, Turkey
  6th Headache Congress
  Information: www.6thehf.org
♦ 26-30 August 2002, Vilnius, Lithuania
  EHF Summer School 2002
  Information: audroneja@hotmail.com
♦ 19-21 September 2002 Marrakech, Morocco
  1st Congres Francophone du Groupe Francophone d’Etude des Cephalées
  Information: gfec@b-c-a.fr
♦ 23-26 September 2002, London UK
  14th Migraine Trust
  Information: www.migrainetrust.org/research

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This newsletter seeks to provide timely and accurate information from the most knowledgeable sources. The newsletter is mailed to EHF members, national drug companies and medical journalists in line with information given by board members. The views expressed in the articles in EHF News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the EHF and the Publisher.

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Bandolier Library
The Bandolier migraine site contains stories from Bandolier, plus abstracts of systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or other studies about migraine. We are able to do this because of generous sponsorship from the Gwen Bush Foundation, and from an unconditional educational grant from Merck, Sharp and Dohme Ltd. Bandolier is also establishing LINKS to Internet sites on migraine that people are likely to find useful.

Information: www.6thehf.org

Note
Final programme available shortly at: www.ehf.ws

6th European Headache Federation Congress

26-30 June 2002
Istanbul - Turkey
Main Themes
- Case Study based teaching course
- Challenging neurovascular headache syndromes
- Migraine and the Human Genome
- Neglected causes of head and facial pains
- Paediatric headache & Burden of headache

Information: www.6thehf.org

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26-30 August 2002
Vilnius - Lithuania
Main Themes
- Acute and chronic primary headaches: pathophysiology, treatment guidelines
- Symptomatic headache and its treatment

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Thanks to an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer, there will be a limited number of bursaries to Vilnius offering reduced-rate or free registrations for those who could not otherwise attend.

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