

Body damage evaluation and temporomandibular disorders

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aims: In order to promote body damage evaluations supported by justice and equality, emerged table-guides.

The assessment of disability within the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is characterized by the presence of an altered functional state - temporomandibular disorders (TMD).

Materials and Methods: The diagnosis of any temporomandibular disorder is made by analyzing the signs and symptoms of the patient in a three way analysis: muscular/articular/sensitive. For a correct diagnosis, protocols should be used, such as the Research Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular joint disorders (RDC / TMD). We will analyse a series of cases, with TMD inability and also make a critical analysis of the table-guide that is used in Portugal the National Table for Permanent Disability Evaluation in Civil Law, establishing an analogy with " Le Guide Barème Européen d' évaluation médicale des atteintes à l'intégrité physique et psychique " in relation to the evaluated parameters of ATM and their scores.

Results and Discussion: The results presented in this study support an overestimation of this item under Civil Law. When making a comparative analysis with European guidelines we find it possible to establish similar correlations.

Conclusions: Despite the pure informational value given by table-guides, they are aimed for helping the medico-legal expert on equitable evaluation of victims, regarding the evaluation of DTM. Table-guides should be used based on the diagnoses done with clinical protocols and translate the various degrees of severity in different scores, thus standardizing the assessments made in the different types of law.