Corelation of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Pain Scoring in Temporomandibular Joint Diseases

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INTRODUCTION: Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) diseases are very frequent and they present with pain mostly. This study presents the corelation of MRI and pain.

MATERIAL AND METHOD: 96 patients with TMJ complaints were evaluated with MRI and Visual analog scale (VAS:0 means no pain, 10 means most) Patients were given a questionnaire which examines the age, sex, painful joint and pain (VAS).

RESULTS: 77 female, 19 male patients were evaluated. Mean VAS value of 33 patients who had a normal MRI findings was 4,82. Mean VAS value of 63 patients who had a positive (reduced or irreduced disc dislocation) MRI finding was 5,58. There were no corelation between VAS and positive MRI finding. (p>0,05)

30 patients who had reduced disc dislocation in the MRI had a VAS value of 5,63. 33 patients who had irreduced disc dislocation in the MRI had a VAS value of 5,54. There were no corelation between reduction and VAS. (p>0,05)

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, pain is a subjective criteria and there's no corelation between MRI and pain. Certainly it should be taken a careful anamnesis but VAS can not be used instead of MRI. Pain scoring and careful anamnesis must be combined with MRI findings.