

# Suppression of Movement Disorders by Jaw Realignment II

Anthony B. Sims DDS

Mechanical realignment of the upper and lower jaws (temporomandibular joints or TMJs) can be used to rapidly suppress a number of movement disorders (Tourette's, tic disorder, torticollis, etc.) some of which may have been caused by a nerve injury within the TMJ. In many cases of a TMJ internal injury, the nerve can become compressed and inflamed causing physiological changes and reflexive behaviors to cascaded and be damaging within the brainstem (the area below the brain). This affects changes within the spinal cords nervous system. Some of these areas control posture, locomotion, blinking, and certain other reflexes.

Patients may not recognize that when there is damage or trauma to their TMJs that it may be linked to some of these disorders. However, by removing the compression and inflammation within the TMJs temporarily, may alleviate some of these symptoms. A vertical change within the TMJ also stretches muscles and tendons around the joint. Rapid suppression of movement disorder can often be achieved within seconds to minutes using TMJ vertical distraction to reduce this compression.

The physician can then order an MRI of the TMJ to confirm the diagnosis. If an internal problem of the TMJ is confirmed, an individualized oral orthotic can be constructed to obtain, and stabilize the functional neurological benefits that result from jaw realignment.

Although jaw realignment can potentially produce a number of neurological actions, changing the dimension within the TMJs is a useful clinical maneuver to screen for movement disorders and TMJ dysfunction.