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### **Severe temporo-mandibular joint pain treated with gabapentin**

Khan AK, Sapien RL, Johnson C

*King/Drew Medical Center (Charles R. Drew University), Los Angeles, CA USA*

A 59 year old Hispanic female was diagnosed to have bilateral Temporo Mandibular Joint (TMJ) internal derangement in February 2000. In March of the same year she developed severe pain in the right TMJ and was treated with bilateral TMJ arthrocentesis, had bite splints prescribed and she was placed on Robaxin.

She continued to have pain with only slight improvement. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 2001. She had a total replacement of right TMJ. Pain still continued. Biting was painful and she would occasionally drool.

In May of 2001 she had circum zygomatic and circum mandibular wires removed. She continued to have pain and developed headache and trismus. She was placed on Trazodone and Paxil.

She was referred to pain service to evaluate and treat her pain. Patient had significant pain (Pain score 7-8/10) in the right TMJ. She also had trismus, slight drooling and tenderness on the right TMJ area.

Selective cranial nerve blocks were contemplated. However, a trial of Gabapentin was decided as an initial first step.

Within three weeks of placement on Gabapentin, the patients pain, trismus and drooling disappeared. An initial dose of 100 mg three times a day has been continued. Patient was seen one week prior to writing this abstract. Patient remains totally pain free for the last five months.

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