

Differences between Adult Patients with Cerebral Palsy and Control Group Regarding Electromyographic Activity of the Masticatory Muscles

Miriam Yumi Matsui

Sao Paulo State University, Brazil

Objective: To compare the masticatory behavior of patients with cerebral palsy with different degrees of oral motor impairment and control group, at rest and function. **Methods:** 30 adult patients with cerebral palsy and 30 subjects without any neuromotordisorders, were enrolled in this study. Oral motor function impairment was classified for each subject according to the Orofacial Motor Function Assessment Scale. Surface electromyography was bilaterally recorded from masseter and anterior temporalis at rest, maximal voluntary clench and mouth opening. Comparison between the groups was statistically assessed by means of Mann-Whitney test. **Results:** At rest and open mouth, electromyographic values were greater in patients with cerebral palsy when compared to control group. During maximal voluntary clench, the opposite occurred. **Conclusion:** In cerebral palsy, jaw muscles are tensioned when they should not and are not efficient when they should. **Significance:** To improve their masticatory function, muscle therapy should approach rest, mouth opening and clenching differently.

Biography:

Miriam Yumi Matsui completed in 2005-2009 Graduation, School of Dentistry, USP – Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. In 2010-2012: Master Science Degree in Biosciences and Oral Diagnosis, School of Dentistry, UNESP – Universidade Estadual Paulista, São José DOS Campos, Brazil.