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A variety of factors, such as stress, hormones, diet, drugs, trauma, and certain neuromuscular diseases, can lead to an increase in sympathetic muscle tone, which results in masticatory muscle hypertonicity and parafunction. If the masticatory muscles do not relax when the teeth come together, the lateral pterygoid in an attempt to separate the teeth remains contracted and is unable to relax and make uncomfortable feeling of pain, problem with occlusion.

The ame of this study was to examine the relationship between the masticatory muscles hypertonicity and the dental occlusion.

We conducted a literature review of MEDLINE® analyzing results of studies that examined defense mechanisms in the oral cavity in 1996-2018 (14 articles).

Modern research concepts confirm the relationship of individual muscular tension of the masticatory muscles, the load on the temporomandibular joint, as well as the structure and function of the jaws.

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