Diagnostic Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders (DC/TMD): Diagnostic Decision Tree

Pain-Related TMD and Headache

Regional pain [SQ3]
AND
Pain modified by jaw movement, function, or parafunction [SQ4]

Yes

Examiner confirmation pain location [E1a]
[Yes = Mast muscles] [Yes = TMJ]

Yes

Investigate other Pain diagnoses

No

Yes

(1) Familiar pain from:
jaw opening [muscle, E4] OR 2-secs masticatory muscle palpation [muscle, E9];
AND
(2) Confirm location [E1a]

[To subtype myalgia]

Yes

Familiar pain, MM palpation (5 secs) [muscle, E9]

No

Extension of pain beyond muscle boundary [muscle, E9]

Yes

Myalgia

No

Pain extend beyond area of stimulation [muscle, E9]

Yes

Myofascial pain with spreading

Myofascial pain with referral

Arthralgia

(1) Familiar pain from:
jaw opening [joint, E4] OR jaw horizontal movement [joint, E5] OR TMJ palpation [joint, E9];
AND
(2) Confirm location [E1a]

Familiar headache from:
jaw opening OR excursive movement, OR temporalis muscle palpation [temporalis, from E4, E5, OR E9]

No

Headache not better accounted for by another headache diagnosis [Symptom review]

Yes

Headache attributed to TMD

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**Intra-articular Joint Disorders**

- Current TMJ noises by history [SQ8] OR Noise detected by patient during examination [E6 OR E7]
  - Yes
    - Yes
    - Current intermittent locking with limited opening [SQ11=yes & SQ12=no]
      - Yes
      - If present in clinic: Maneuver opens mouth [E8] else go to ‘Yes’
    - No
    - Investigate other diagnoses
  - No

- Prior jaw locking in closed position [SQ9] AND Interference in mastication [SQ10]
  - Yes
  - MAO ≥ 40mm (including overbite) [E4C]
  - No

- Investigate other diagnoses

**Degenerative Joint Disorder**

- Current TMJ noises by history [SQ8] OR Noise detected by patient during examination [E6 OR E7]
  - Yes
  - Crepitus detected by examiner [E6 OR E7]
    - Yes
    - Investigate other diagnoses
    - No

- Degenerative joint disease

**IMAGING**

- Confirm by MRI when indicated
- Confirm by CT when indicated