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Page 25

In This Edition Learn About.... Skin Tips | Vision Care | Carpal Tunnel Face Lifts | Dental Care | Acupuncture Hearing Loss | Home Safety | Neck Pain

Directory of Health Professionals • Page 48







eri Salartash, DDS, FAGD Dentistry & TMJ Solutions

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Sarah F.Alemi, DAc, LAc Acupuncture For Cancer

Dawn Curtis, ERYT 500, C-IAYT Yoga Therapy for Cancer

Pages 29-31



Next Month in Your Health Magazine

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By Jeffrey L. Brown, DDS Sleep & TMJ Therapy

When a patient goes to their TMJ doctor, it is vitally important to make sure that certain technologies are used in order to get a good diagnosis and even greater treatment.

In this article we will be looking at the merits of the dedicated Tesla coil, the x-rays to look at the jaw joints, the digital impression scanner, and the ever so important computer.

When it comes to getting a really great MRI of your TM joints, it is really important to be sure that the imaging center has a Tesla coil dedicated for this kind of work because it is so sensitive and can allow us to see the articular discs much better than some older technology.

> "...Digital impressions are the most accurate way to see the teeth and jaw bones..."

In too many cases, the MRI is done with an inferior machine and the reading is simply not that precise. This will often lead to a misdiagnosis and a path of treatment that costs lots of money, time, and frustration.

Another piece of technology in getting proper TMJ treatment involves the x-ray equipment. It is important first of all to go with "green" technology, i.e. low dose radiation and three-dimensional imaging. The 3-D imaging comes in really handy when the doctor wants to see what's going on behind and around the corners of various bones, especially the condyle or jaw bone. This information helps when trying to correlate to the findings of the MRI; do the slipped discs make sense and is that why the jaw bone has shifted in that direction?

A very fun and very special advancement when it comes to doing braces to finish up a TMJ patient is the digital impression system. This system basically uses a camera to videotape the teeth and the computer effectively "stitches" all the videos together to

Why TMJ Technology Is So Important

show the lab what the teeth look like. In addition, the digital impressions are the most accurate way to see the teeth and jaw bones.

Then, the braces manufacturer uses a device to "cut' each bracket to the best fit possible for every individual tooth. This means that each bracket is custom made, by hand (the hand of a computer guided laser that is) to the proper tip and torque needed to achieve the best result in the shortest time possible. Think of it like GPS for your trip up to Canada – the computer will design the least difficult, quickest, and most efficient path to get you there.

Let's not forget to give mention to our old friend, the computer, which has advanced so much in recent years that we have become used to it running on terabytes, not kilobytes, of storage and how fast the processors have become. Without the computer, we could not show the patient the wonderful world of digital x-rays and show them how their progress has changed.

The computer and all these other technologies have surely changed our world, and made treatment better and easier for patients.

We Are NOT Your **Typical Dental Office** We Can Help With: Jaw Pain, Clicking or Popping Head, Neck and Shoulder Pain Migraines Craniofacial Pain Sleep Apnea Orthodontics Dr. Jeffrey Brown has limited his practice to focus only on TMJ Disorders, Craniofacial Pain Management and Sleep Apnea. By fixing slipped discs in the jaw joints, Dr. Brown can significantly reduce the pain patients experience in the head/neck region and other symptoms associated with jaw joint problems. Sleep & TMJ Therapy may be able to improve the quality of life for you or a loved one - we encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns. "Dr. Brown and his staff are absolutely wonderful. I was diagnosed with Dystonia. I could not turn my head and had a ton of pain. My doctors of-fered no help and no advice besides Meds and Botox. Since having the appliance I have NO pain and I can turn my head. I would highly recom-Certified Fellow of the mend them to anyone. I feel Dr. Brown and his staff really care about their patients and helping them to get better. They do not just numb the symp-American Academy of toms but fix the problem. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I feel like - D. Thomas the old me again!" **Over 30 Years Experience** "My daughter has been treated by Dr. Stack and Dr. Brown for the last 2 1/2 years, and we are very fortunate to have found them. Prior to that she Graduate of Georgetown School of Dentistry (1986) was being treated by a neurologist at a Children's hospital. She was on Jeffrey L. Brown, DDS medications for tics and associated muscle pain, OCD/repetitive thoughts, sleeplessness and more (all possibly associated with Tourettes). Drs. Stack and Brown installed spacers to alleviate pressure on nerve bundles in the jaw, and subsequently braces to complete the process. Her symptoms have diminished significantly. She is off medication, her tics have all but SLEEP&TMJ disappeared, she can concentrate better in school, and she is once again cheerful and relaxed. Susan ΤΗΕΓΑΡΥ For more reviews, search "Sleep & TMJ Therapy" on Google! Schedule Your Appointment Today: 703-821-1103

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Arlington - Fairfax Edition I 13