

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Stomatology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4457

**Title:** Subconscious Temporomandibular Dysfunction (STeDy) Therapy: A New Therapeutic Approach for Temporomandibular Disorders

**Reviewer code:** 00742303

**Science editor:** Wang, Jin-Lei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-07-01 13:38

**Date reviewed:** 2013-07-13 16:19

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1) Methodology of the study is unclear & confusing. If a patient has just one of the following symptoms (Headache, tiredness in the morning, click or pain in the ears) can be included in the study. It means that, if somebody has just tiredness in the morning (Which can be rare (0) or often (1)) can be considered as a suitable candidate for this study regardless of other clinical signs & symptoms. This can lead to significant inaccuracy in the results. Another question is about the role of clinical examination. Were any of the participants excluded from study due to absence of clinical signs after examination? 2) What was the importance of the psychological evaluation before commencing the study? Did the Authors exclude any participants due to severe mental issues? 3) I believe that 5-7 mm splint is too thick to be tolerated by many patients. It is difficult for good number of people to get to sleep with such an inconvenient appliance and consequently they stop using it shortly after commencing the treatment. According to the authors, just seven participants quit the treatment due to severe health problem, and not because of the discomfort of the appliance. It is really strange that none of the participants quit the treatment due to uncomfortable treatment. 4) An awareness splint can bring a unconscious habit such as bruxism to the conscious level (cognitive level) at the most. So if we accept that the most important underlying cause of the bruxism is anxiety, it is obvious that the splint cannot solve the underlying problem and as long as anxiety exists, clinical signs can come back as soon as the patient cease wearing the splint. Having insight to this matter, authors stressed on consultation. The question is, how can a dentist with the basic knowledge of psychology can treat a huge psychological issue such as anxiety? These kind of problems need tens of sessions of psychotherapy and if the dentist cannot fix the source of the problem, what's the advantage of



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“awareness splint” to the normal one?

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**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4457

**Title:** Subconscious Temporomandibular Dysfunction (STeDy) Therapy: A New Therapeutic Approach for Temporomandibular Disorders

**Reviewer code:** 00563599

**Science editor:** Wang, Jin-Lei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-07-01 13:38

**Date reviewed:** 2013-07-16 10:51

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Reviewer Comments to Author: This is a report of a study to evaluate a new therapeutic (Subconscious Temporomandibular Dysfunction) approach that may permanently address excessive involuntary muscle activity, which causes temporomandibular disorders. The central idea of this present manuscript is original, considering DTM treatment. But, there are some problems with the study that prevent its recommendation for publication and these are listed below:

2. Methodology:
  - 2.1 How was defined the sample size.
  - 2.2. Main problem: the study don't have a control group: traditional DTM treatment.
  - 2.3. Very long description of STeDy treatment.
  - 2.4. Figure: figure 1 is not necessary. Figure 2 could be grouped in stacked columns.
3. Results:
  - 3.1. It is not clear if it is series case report or original research manuscript.
4. Conclusion: Discussion: Not presented in the manuscript.
5. Conclusion:
  - 5.1. "The STeDy therapy successfully faced TMD problems of all patients that completed the year-long treatment in a permanent manner." I'm my opinion it is no support because in this manuscript we don't have a control group.

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**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4457

**Title:** Subconscious Temporomandibular Dysfunction (STeDy) Therapy: A New Therapeutic Approach for Temporomandibular Disorders

**Reviewer code:** 00570285

**Science editor:** Wang, Jin-Lei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-07-01 13:38

**Date reviewed:** 2013-07-18 21:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Futhter language revision is necessary to improve the quaulity of manuscript.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

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**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 4457

**Title:** Subconscious Temporomandibular Dysfunction (STeDy) Therapy: A New Therapeutic Approach for Temporomandibular Disorders

**Reviewer code:** 00742323

**Science editor:** Wang, Jin-Lei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-07-01 13:38

**Date reviewed:** 2013-07-19 06:07

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Some parts of this manuscript as the abstract, introduction and scope can be easily summarized, and a complete language revision is necessary. The Introduction is lacking in references. None ethics approval of this research is mentioned in manuscript. The graphics used must also demonstrate the absolute case numbers, or then some tables should be included. Finally, a statistical test must be applied to support the findings of this research.