



## Temporomandibular Joint Disorder

The temporomandibular joint is a small, complex joint located in front of the ear and joins the mandible (lower jaw) to the skull. Movement of this joint allows the opening and closing of the lower jaw. Problems associated with this joint is not uncommon and can present as pain in front of the ear, headaches, earaches, and often times difficulty opening and/or closing the mouth. Many patients complain of a popping or grating noise in their joint associated with functioning of the joint. Muscle stiffness or pain is commonly seen in the muscles of the jaws and neck. Treatment of this disorder is based on an accurate diagnosis and can involve simple non-invasive therapies to complex surgical intervention. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons are experts in the diagnosis and treatment of temporomandibular disorders. Dr. Mizukawa and Dr. Dudley have extensive training in the management of these disorders.

For more information see <http://www.aaoms.org/tmj.php>