



Effects of orofacial pain on lip muscle strength: comparison with pain-free individuals

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Introduction

The lip is a fundamental anatomical structure, playing a crucial role in facial aesthetics, oral function, and expression. Despite its importance, there is a significant gap in scientific knowledge about the impact of orofacial pain in this region.

Objective

This study aims to compare lip strength between individuals diagnosed with orofacial pain and temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) and healthy individuals.

Methodology

The sample consisted of 50 individuals of both sexes, with an average age of 47.7 years. They were divided into two groups: one group diagnosed with orofacial pain and TMD, and a control group of healthy individuals. Lip strength measurements were obtained using the Biofeedback Pró-Fono device (PLL Pró-Fono). Data normality was verified using the Shapiro-Wilk test. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare lip strength between the groups, adopting a significance level of $p < 0.05$.

Results

The results indicated that the control group exhibited significantly greater lip strength compared to individuals with orofacial pain ($p = 0.042$). This suggests that the presence of orofacial pain and TMD is associated with a reduction in lip strength.

Conclusion

Orofacial pain and TMD have a negative impact on lip strength, resulting in a significant reduction in this strength compared to individuals without orofacial pain. These findings highlight the importance of considering the assessment and treatment of lip strength in patients with orofacial pain and TMD, contributing to a more comprehensive approach in the rehabilitation of these patients.