

## PREVALENCE OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS IN TURKISH DENTAL STUDENTS USING FONSECA'S QUESTIONNAIRE

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of signs and symptoms of temporomandibular disorders (TMD) by means of the frequency distribution of data for 1533 dental students from a Turkish Government University using the Fonseca's questionnaire.

**Materials and methods:** This study included 581 male and 952 female students from first to fifth grades.

**Results:** The results showed that 58.6 % of the subjects exhibited some degree of TMD. Women were the most affected group, with 62.6 % showing some level of TMD, against 37.4 % of men. A statistically significant difference was found between education and TMD status ( $p < 0.001$ ). The probability of TMD was 36.7 % in the first grade, 46 % in the second grade, 65.5 % in the third grade, 79.6 % in the fourth grade and 82.3 % in the fifth grade. It was observed that the probability of TMD increased as the education level increased. Students with any level of TMD showed marked characteristics: 73 % of women and 66.8 % male subjects considered themselves tense people; 74.5% of female subjects reported frequent neck pain. Women subjects exhibited headache 1.566 times more than men ( $p < 0.001$ ) When considering awareness of the limitation of the mouth opening, women were approximately 1.677 times more affected than men.

**Conclusions:** In conclusion, clinical signs and symptoms of TMD can occur in young population and this information is of great importance for the early diagnosis of the dysfunction.

Keywords: Temporomandibular disorders, pain, Fonseca's questionnaire