

INVESTIGACIÓN - ODONTOLOGÍA

MARFAN SYNDROME AND TMJ DYSFUNCTION: A FAMILY CASE IN A SOCIALLY VULNERABLE SETTING— A MULTIDISCIPLINARY, RESEARCH-ORIENTED APPROACH

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Marfan syndrome is a genetic disorder that affects connective tissue. Although its

population incidence is low, it primarily involves the skeleton, cardiovascular system, and

eyes; craniofacial and oral manifestations—such as temporomandibular joint (TMJ)

hypermobility—are also reported. These latter features are not usually considered in

patient diagnosis and treatment, even though addressing them could improve quality of

life. This work describes more than 20 years of multidisciplinary follow-up, with an

emphasis on cardiovascular emergencies, of three generations of a family with Marfan

syndrome living under conditions of social vulnerability in northeastern Argentina. In

conjunction with fieldwork conducted by the NGO Cuerpo & Alma, we underscore the

need to devote greater attention to issues related to oral health and, specifically, the TMJ

among family members, particularly the youngest generation. In this context, we highlight

the relevance of TMJ subluxations and symptoms of TMJ dysfunction, in line with

evidence-based studies. The project recently initiated combines (i) field experience with

vulnerable populations and the contextual factors shaping the expression of Marfan

syndrome; (ii) an analysis of the scientific evidence on the syndrome, its relationship with

oral health, and in particular with temporomandibular disorders; and (iii) the initial

planning of an appropriate protocol for documented screening, follow-up, and treatment

(including clinical records and diagnostic materials) of TMJ dysfunction in pediatric dental

patients with Marfan syndrome. The case study and treatments underscore the

importance of integrating pediatric dentistry and TMJ care, particularly in patients with

Marfan syndrome, who show a high prevalence of TMJ subluxations and dysfunction. The

social context and the specific challenges of the syndrome constitute both a challenge

and a pedagogical opportunity to raise awareness of the relationship between TMJ

assessment and pediatric dentistry, the value of transdisciplinary work, and social

responsibility.

Palavras-chave: tmj; multidisciplinary; social responsibility.