

32. Redesigned heister TMJ appliance – an innovative technique

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The major etiological factors for TMJ ankylosis are trauma, drug induced, radio/chemotherapy or congenital disorders and pathology. Ankylosis of TMJ resulting in restricted mouth opening, disfigurement of face, difficulty in speech, mastication, hampers oral hygiene and subsequent dental complications involving periodontal problems due to poor oral hygiene, inaccessibility for the dental procedures cumulating the dental problems and in case of a growing child it has a drastic influence on the growth and development of jaws and teeth. . . Mouth gags or devices were designed and developed to hold the mouth open. They were originally used during surgery in the mouth and throat, or for opening the mouths of patients who could not do so themselves. The gag which was introduced in 1718 by the german surgeon, lorenz heister (1683-1758) became popular among other instruments because of its unique design and function. Later, the modifications of original design were done by others. . . A 16 year old female patient with tmj ankylosis was treated with custom made jaw opener to overcome the difficulties of using traditionally available heister appliance. A unique custom made individualised gag was designed for the better comfort and effective mouth opening within short span. This paper presentation describes the innovative method of designing and fabrication of customised heister jaw opener to overcome the shortcomings of readily available stock jaw opener.

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