

neuralgia and be treated by a comparable continuous medical regime.

In summary, we would suggest that there is little evidence to consider such facial pains as being primary local disorders such as temporomandibular joint synovitis, lateral pterygoid muscle dysfunction or masseteric tenosynovitis and the successful management of the patient necessitates the identification of chronic pain disorders elsewhere in the body, predisposing adverse life events as well as treatment with conservative drug therapy.

CHARLOTTE FEINMANN

MALCOLM HARRIS

*Department of Oral and
Maxillo Facial Surgery,
Eastman Dental Hospital,
256 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8LD, UK*

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Friedman et al reply:

The recognition of emotional stress as a causative factor in masticatory disorders is not new. In our article we discussed the controversy, which still exists between the psychogenic school and those who believe that malocclusions cause every temporomandibular joint disorder. If *all* disorders of this joint and associated muscles are psychogenic in origin, as Drs Feinmann and Harris suggest, the temporomandibular joint would be bizarrely different from other synovial joints. This is unlikely.

The two inflammatory conditions described in our article, synovitis and tendonitis, are rarely psychogenic. Lateral pterygoid muscle dysfunction *may* be caused by excessive tension, which is why

we limited possible application of muscle relaxant techniques or psychotherapy to this condition.

Drs Feinmann and Harris characterise a facial pain patient as "a pain person with a vulnerable neurochemistry". Proper diagnosis will distinguish this syndrome from conditions such as maxillary sinusitis, otitis media, parotid gland disease, temporal arteritis, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) synovitis, and tendonitis of the masseter muscle—all of which may produce facial pain. Drs Feinmann and Harris incorrectly assume that, because certain symptoms may be psychogenic, that *all* conditions causing these symptoms are therefore psychogenic. This fallacious reasoning could be applied to headache as well, with even more disastrous results.

Notices

Sixth International Symposium on Intracranial Pressure

"ICP and Mechanisms of Brain Damage"

This Symposium will be held 9-13 June 1985 in Glasgow, Scotland. Further information may be obtained from The Organising Secretary, Department of Neurosurgery, Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow G51 4TF, Scotland.

The Fulton Society.

The XIIth International Symposium entitled "Brain Mechanisms of Emotions" will be held on 4 September 1985 in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. Information may be obtained from Professor Dr Victor Soriano, Calle Buenos Aires 363, Montevideo, Uruguay