

## **YOUR NEW ORTHOTIC APPLIANCE**

Purpose - The Orthotics/Splints hold neutral jaw positions orthopedically and neurologically. That means the upper and lower jawbones are aligned correctly to make your T.M. joints function as well as possible while standing upright, swallowing, chewing and sleeping. This helps to alleviate:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| -Jaw Pain   | -Facial Pain                       |
| -Headaches/Migraines                                      | -Ringing in the ears               |
| -Movement Disorders                                       | -Ear Pain and stuffiness           |
| -Jaw soreness and stiffness                               | -Throat Pain/difficulty swallowing |
| -As well as many other symptoms you may have come in with |                                    |

The orthotics/splints also work as a biofeedback device. It “reminds your brain where to be” thereby helping to break the cycle of clenching and/or grinding.

### **Directions for wear**

**The daytime appliance** is to be worn during your waking hours. **You must eat with the appliance in place.** We know that will cause you to chew softer foods; that is part of the intention. It should only be removed to be cleaned immediately after you eat, but place an object like a pencil between your teeth to keep your teeth from touching. The day appliance should also be removed and cleaned prior to putting on the night appliance.

**The night appliance** is to be worn anytime you sleep. **Do not wear the daytime appliance together with the night time appliance.**

**Cleaning and Maintenance-** The orthotics/splints are very porous, like a sponge. It can collect plaque like your teeth. Scrub the inside and the outside with a denture brush. Use an effervescent cleaner, i.e. Poli-dent or Efferdent to soak it in. Do not use toothpaste to clean for it is an abrasive and can scratch the orthotic/splint. Hold the orthotic/splint up to the light, it should always be clear, which means it is clean. Store them in the plastic container provided, with a moist tissue, so the orthotic/splint will not distort. Do not leave either appliance in a hot environment, or soak them in hot water, they will warp!  
**ALSO KEEP AWAY FROM DOGS!! DOGS LOVE HUMAN SALIVA AND WILL EAT AND DESTROY THE APPLIANCES! YOU'RE COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ORTHOTIC AND IT'S SAFETY.**

**NO DENTAL TREATMENT SHOULD BE DONE DURING THIS PHASE OF TREATMENT WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH THIS OFFICE.**

If you have any questions, please ask us. We encourage you to contact us anytime via phone at 619-466-2774 or email at [info@TMJTherapyCentre.com](mailto:info@TMJTherapyCentre.com)  
We are all here to help **YOU**.

## **A HEALTHY DIET ENHANCES YOUR BODY'S ABILITY TO HEAL**

The diet recommendations outlined below are structured to allow your body to heal with optimum success during your therapy in our office, as well as to support lifelong health.

These diet suggestions are actually fundamentally healthy eating habits that should be followed during the rehabilitation of the disorder for which you are receiving treatment, but also for everyday living. Patients who suffer from these disorders or chronic pain/injury have compromised immune systems that creates an acidic blood ph. It is necessary to neutralize the blood ph in order to aid the healing process.

**Eat:**

\*Green vegetables, leafy veggies- contain Folic Acid with co-enzyme Q to aid in balancing metabolism.

\*Fish proteins and fish oils- contain essential fatty acids to assist in digestion (as a supplement, take fish oil with EPA and DHA, 1000mg/once daily. Find a Norwegian brand as that's where the best quality comes from).

\*Fresh fruits blended into smoothies with protein powder supplements provide an excellent source of vitamin and mineral nutrients. Also, you are combining proteins with complex carbohydrates, a healthy habit.

\*Supplements – are recommended depending on your individual needs. 10,000 mg of Vitamin C a day as well as 3,000 mg or more of Vitamin D per day are encouraged, please consult with your health care provider before taking these doses.

While Calcium is important, and supplementing with coral calcium is recommended, milk, cheese, and other cow dairy products contain phosphates that acidify your blood as well as casein protein which triggers IgG food sensitivities in most people, which can predispose you to pain. If you MUST have dairy products, then consider goat cheese(delicious!) and /or goat milk(not-delicious), and if it MUST be dairy from a cow, please only use organic, un-pasteurized, non-homogenized products (i.e. raw). Any kind of processed soy should also be avoided, but edamame (steamed soy beans) are OK. A great alternative to milk is almond milk, as most people don't have sensitivities to almonds; Hazelnut milk is also a delicious alternative! However if you do have any known allergies, especially to nuts or wheat, please avoid consuming what triggers them. Coconut milk is also an excellent substitute, only quite rich, and avocados are a great substitute for butter.

Olive oil is recommended when possible, and **not** used for cooking. For a cooking oil, use grape seed oil or coconut oil as it can handle far greater heat before it denatures. Olive oil denatures very quickly under cooking temperatures. Butter is preferred over margarine due to the hydrogenated oil in margarine that cannot be properly recognized and broken down by the gut. Butter, however is still a cow dairy product and should be avoided, as mentioned above. Goat butter on the other hand is absolutely delicious and is acceptable.

Non-Organic red meat, eggs and poultry contain steroids that reduce our immune systems ability to heal as well as arachidonic acid which is a precursor for prostaglandins that cause inflammation leading to vascular and neural pain. Please consider substituting to organic red meat and poultry if you eat meat. After cow dairy products, typically the

second and third most common food sensitivities are eggs and wheat, respectively. If at all possible, try avoiding those as well.

White sugar/**all flour**/potatoes/rice produce an immediate negative effect on our immune system. An excellent substitute for bread is Manna bread. Sugar substitutes such as Equal and Nutri-sweet contain aspartame known to metabolize to 10% methanol; Stevia is a safe sugar substitute, available at any fine health food store. We recommend you to get pure Stevia, as in SteviaSmart, and watch out for the kinds that have lots of fillers in them. The worst sugar by far is (high fructose) corn syrup, and the more the fructose in it the worse it is. Carbonated beverages also reduce stomach acids for digestion.

**DRINK LARGE QUANTITIES OF WATER DAILY!** Sipping is preferred. Avoid cola and caffeine products because they contribute to the acidic ph of your blood. Herbal teas may be used occasionally, however avoid Yerba Matte tea as research has found them to contain carcinogens (cancer causing molecules). The caffeine found in a high quality green tea is acceptable because it has L-Theanine in it which counteracts the nervous system stimulating qualities of caffeine.

#### **WHY WE WANT PATIENTS TO CHANGE THEIR DIETS:**

Chronic pain patients have low blood ph. That means they have an acidic blood, and acidic blood is low in oxygen and low oxygenated blood reduces the body's ability to heal itself. The treatment of acidic blood is to consume foods and supplements which neutralize the blood ph. This is accomplished by consuming items which are alkaline and reducing the intake of acidic items. Caffeine, white sugar, wheat, carbonated drinks, and flour and potatoes should be avoided, whereas protein and vegetables and acidic fruits (ironically) should be the majority of the meal. Supplements such as green algae and alfalfa also help to neutralize the blood ph.

People with acidic blood are typically carbohydrate addicts and consume very little protein; protein is needed to make up collagen, which makes up ligaments and tendons, which is the most abundant protein in the body. These carb addicts usually have an excess of yeast in the gut that actually makes them crave starchy foods. To add, supplementation with probiotics for a short duration helps with this. We recommend Bio K+ for use in this application, but please consult your healthcare provider before taking.

Patients should drink at least 6 to 8 glasses of water a day. A good rule of thumb for water consumption each day is to divide your weight in pounds by two and that is the number of ounces of water needed each day.

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## **SLEEP ORAL APPLIANCE CARE AND GUIDE**

We ask that you follow the directions below to ensure the longevity of the oral appliance and the effectiveness of your oral appliance therapy.

1. Remember to always brush the oral appliance with a toothbrush and rinse it in cool water after removing it from your mouth. Do not use toothpaste.
2. Remove excess water before storing the appliance in its container, but a moist tissue is recommended as acrylic can become brittle.
3. If needed, soak the appliance in mouthwash to freshen it. Rinse thoroughly when finished, as the appliance will change color to the color of the mouthwash if it's allowed to soak in it for more than a few seconds.
4. Use denture cleanser like Efferdent for soaking appliance to remove build-up.
5. Keep the appliance out of the sun and away from any other source of high heat. To avoid warping, the appliance should NOT be placed in hot water or any other solution for an extended period of time, only for a few moments before you wear it, and only **when given permission by this office**.
6. When not being worn, the appliance should be stored in its case. Appliances can be easily lost and pets (especially dogs) love to chew them. You are responsible for your appliance, please care for them ☺
7. Remember to always brush and floss your teeth before inserting the appliance.
8. Possible side effects to wearing the appliances are: increased saliva, dry mouth, jaw pain, bite changes and jaw locking. Though jaw locking and bite changes are rare, there may be short periods in the morning where the jaw may be sore. For this, chewing with sugarless gum gently for a few minutes is recommended.
9. Always contact our offices immediately if you have any concerns or questions.
10. Special instructions:  
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## ***Taking personal responsibility and ownership of your own health and well being***

We understand you have come to us seeking help in resolution of the issues and problems you have been facing for considerable time now. We want to be clear on how the healing process works. At all times, and with no exceptions to this rule, **you are always in control of your own healing.** All healthcare providers, at best, can only facilitate your well being. It is 100% your responsibility to follow the directions, recommendations, referrals, care of appliances, office visits and treatment given by your healthcare provider(s), as well as to give feedback and inform us of any challenges and wins along the way. We guarantee our support of you and your health; all of us. This Team we have put together is here for you. But we cannot heal **for** you. Please be clear on this point. To that end, and for this process to continue, we ask that you acknowledge your ownership of your own health and well being.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand that I am responsible for my own health and well being. I am fully aware that the doctors and staff at the TMJ & Sleep Therapy Centre of Conejo Valley are here to facilitate my wellness, but that ultimately, it is entirely my choice and responsibility to follow their directions, recommendations, referrals, regular office visits, care of my custom made appliances and treatment given. If I have any challenges or questions with my treatment, I will contact either the office or Dr. Shirazi directly.

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Signed

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Date

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Witness

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Date

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