Orofacial Pain: Specialty Recognition

Jeffry R Shaefer DDS MS MPH
OMFS/MGH/HSDM
617-432-3147 jshaefer@partners.org
The Problem

- The lack of access to care for patients suffering from chronic orofacial pain disorders.
Problem: access to care for chronic orofacial pain disorders.

- 10 million people with chronic orofacial pain go without care each year. *Aaop.org

- One in 6 patients who visited a general dentist reported orofacial pain within the past year. *Horst. J Am Dent Assoc. 2015

Masticatory muscle pain
TMJ arthralgia
Neuropathic pain
Orofacial Pain

The state of the art

- Intracranial disorders
- 1<sup>0</sup> Headache disorders
- 2<sup>0</sup> Headache disorders
- Neuropathic pain
- Intraoral pain disorders
- TMDs
- Cervical pain disorders
- Associated structures
- Axis II mental disorders

2<sup>0</sup> = temporal arteritis, post trauma headache, medication overuse headache

Neuropathic; episodic (TN) and constant, SMP

TMD: TMJ, masticatory muscle

Assoc structures: extra-cranial: ENT, sinus, salivary
Problem: access to care

- Orofacial pain includes neuropathic, musculoskeletal, vascular, odontogenic, glandular, and intracranial etiologies

- 95% of dentists reported a preference to refer these patients to orofacial pain specialists

- 32% of dentists stated the reason they refer such patients is because of low reimbursement by insurance agencies
Specialty recognition would expand:

Insurance Coverage
Referral Networks
Improved Care
Date: May 17, 2017

- To: ADA Specialty Recognition Communities of Interest
- From: Task Force on Specialty and Specialty Certifying Board Recognition
- RE: Proposed New ADA Agency to Recognize Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards
Specialty Requirements

- Represented by a sponsoring organization
- Membership reflective of specialty
- Certifying board
Specialty Board

- Each board shall certify qualified dentists as diplomats
- No more than one board shall be recognized for the certification of diplomats
Formal advanced education programs

- of at least two years accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation
- to provide the special knowledge and skills required for practice of the specialty.
AAOP: Clinicians and Educators

A Network of Healthcare Providers treating Orofacial Pain

- Approximate 400 members nationwide
- International chapters on five continents
- Over 1000 members worldwide
- 75% of private practitioners devoting practice to the management of orofacial pain
- 25% Educators based in universities and teaching hospitals
ADA Recognition

- In 2000, the AAOP first attempted to gain full status recognition by the ADA as a specialty of dentistry
- AAOP develops written and oral specialty examination to establish diplomat status in OFP.
- AAOP develops CODA accreditation standards for 2 year residency
- In 2016 Twelve OFP programs had achieved CODA accreditation
Specialty Recognition

- ABDS created
- ADA looses lawsuits in Florida and Texas in favor of OFP specialty recognition by ABDS
- 2018: Dental Boards in Mn, NC, Ohio recognize OFP specialty
- ADA proposes New Agency to Recognize Dental Specialties and Certifying Board
Date: May 17, 2017

To: ADA Specialty Recognition
Communities of Interest

From: Task Force on Specialty and Specialty Certifying Board Recognition

RE: Proposed New ADA Agency to Recognize Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards
It is the Association's belief that the needs of the public are best served if the profession is oriented primarily to general practice.

Specialties are recognized in those areas where advanced knowledge and skills are essential to maintain or restore oral health.
Specialty recognition

- proposed specialty must be a distinct and well-defined field which requires unique knowledge and skills beyond those commonly possessed by dental school graduates
The scope of the proposed specialty requires advanced knowledge and skills that:

(a) are separate and distinct from the knowledge and skills required to practice in any recognized dental specialty;

(b) cannot be accommodated through minimal modification of a recognized dental specialty.
AAOP: Clinicians and Educators

A Network of Healthcare Providers treating Orofacial Pain

- Approximate 400 members nationwide
- International chapters on five continents
- Over 1000 members worldwide
- 75% of private practitioners devoting practice to the management of orofacial pain
- 25% Educators based in universities and teaching hospitals