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The Role of Dentists in the Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea

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Abstract : Obstructive sleep apnoea is a common condition which is generally under-diagnosed. Poorly managed obstructive sleep apnoea carries serious health risks and can greatly impact on the sufferer's quality of life. This publication covers the aetiology, symptoms, and treatment of sleep apnoea. The treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea is an emerging field, and the useful role of the Dental Team is relatively unknown, therefor this paper will highlight the role of the dental team in its treatment. The concept of mandibular advancement appliances, along with the clinical and laboratory stages for constructing them, are documented. It is the hope of the author that this publication will educate healthcare professionals on the role of dental practitioners in the multidisciplinary team for treating sleep apnoea. Objective: Individuals should be more aware of the demographic of patients at risk of sleep apnoea, how it is diagnosed and which group of sleep apnoea patients are suitable to refer for mandibular appliance therapy. Individuals should also be aware of what a mandibular advancement appliance is and how it helps treat obstructive sleep apnoea.

Keywords: sleep apnoea, snoring, sleep appliances, mandibular advancement appliance

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