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Experimental model of temporomandibular joint arthritis: evaluation of contralateral joint and masticatory muscles

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Highlights

- A single intra-articular injection of CFA was efficient to induce a persistent inflammatory process in the ipsilateral TMJ
- The articular inflammation reduced area and diameter of fibers of masticatory muscles
- Induced inflammation in TMJ caused morphological and molecular changes in the contralateral joint

Abstract

Objective: To investigate morphological and biochemical changes in an experimental model of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) arthritis, as well as examine contralateral joint involvement and morphometric aspects of masticatory muscles in affected animals.

Design: Forty Wistar rats were allocated into three groups, as follows: a healthy control group (HG); and a group with arthritis induced in the left TMJ (IG); and a contralateral group with noninflamed right TMJ (CG). Arthritis was induced by intra-articular injection of 50 µL of Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA). Morphological analysis was

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