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ARROWHEAD
LAKES DENTISTRY 

Arrowhead Lakes Dentistry Newsletter

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May/2011

Clenching and grinding of your teeth has been known to be a common cause of dental breakdown, muscle pain and headaches. Dentists often use intra oral appliances or "splints" of different configurations to reduce the activity of the muscles that control the jaw.

Most dentists that use splint therapy rely on feeling the muscles to see if their splint reduces the ability of the muscles to clench . This technique is highly subjective and prone to error. Most dentists and patients use the splint for a period of time and hope that it was built correctly and that it gives the patient relief. If the splint didn't work, another configuration is tried . This process can be slow and expensive for the patient.

Dr. Shelley joins BioReserch Product Development Team

More advanced dentists use electromyography (EMG) to measure the electrical activity of the craniofacial muscles. This allows for an objective comparison of the impact of the splint on the patient's dysfunction. These clinicians can measure their patient's current capacity to clench, and test different configurations of splints to find the best solution in the first appointment, before the patient leaves the office. The expense and learning curve of most EMG systems have kept this capability out of all but the most advanced dental practices.

Dr. Ronald Shelley has been asked to join the Product Development Team of BioRESEARCH Assoc. Inc. of Milwaukee WI. BioRESEARCH is the world leader in craniofacial diagnostic aids and with Dr. Shelley's help they are working to develop a low cost, and easy to use EMG that any dentist can use. Together they hope to solve the problem that most offices simply guess about the effectiveness of their splint therapy and hope the patient comes back feeling better.

Dr. Shelley's role on the Product Development Team is to clinically test each new EMG prototype developed by BioRESEARCH and

give an expert opinion to the engineers for development of the final device to be released in Fall of 2011. Dr. Shelley will also help to develop the most effective and efficient protocols for using the system in a general dental practice.

With the rising cost of health care, Dr. Shelley knows it is critical to offer an affordable and objective muscle test to any patient that is experiencing pain, dental breakdown or splint therapy.

Arrowhead Lakes Dentistry will continue its quest to utilize state of the art equipment and techniques to benefit our patients. If you have any further questions about the information of this article or any other dental concerns, please visit our [website](#) or give our office a call at 623-362-9616. We would love to answer any questions.

We wish you good health,
Sincerely,

Jeff Fellner DDS
Arrowhead Lakes Dentistry PC

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