DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS (TMD)

Module Contact Dates : June 16th – 20th 2014

Venue: University of Liverpool

About this module
This Masters Level module, of 20 academic credits has evolved through collaboration between the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Temporomandibular Disorders (ACPTMD) and the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences at the University of Liverpool. It has been specifically developed for healthcare professionals who specialise in the assessment, differential diagnosis and management of patients with temporomandibular joint disorders. It has a multi-professional focus and emphasis is placed upon the development of effective clinical reasoning strategies based upon the use of ‘best evidence’ and reflective practice. Delivery is blended in approach with a 5 day block of teaching at the University, followed by on-line delivery using pre-recorded lectures, student-led group tasks through Wikis and an electronic discussion board.

The Faculty represents the holistic, multi-professional approach required in order to effectively assess, diagnose and manage patients with TMD. Faculty members include lecturers from Dentistry, Radiology, Human Anatomy, Surgery and Physiotherapy. In addition students will spend a half day session in the Human Anatomy Resource Centre in order to consolidate their knowledge of anatomy and biomechanics.

Module aims
1. To equip the health care professional with the requisite in-depth knowledge and understanding to undertake critical clinical reasoning to effect accurate differential diagnoses and patient management following clinical examination of patients presenting with suspected temporomandibular joint disorders (TMD).
2. To develop the student’s ability to reflect critically on his/her professional development within a specific practice environment to inform future practice in relation to TMD.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the module the participant will be able to:
1. evaluate critically the key elements of subjective and objective examination procedures for temporomandibular joint disorders using a clinical reasoning process;
2. reflect critically upon clinical decision making using appropriate evidence based practice;
3. analyse critically normal and abnormal clinical assessment findings including diagnostic tests to establish a reasoned differential diagnosis;
4. apply critically the findings from the differential diagnosis in order to establish an effective patient-centred management strategy;
5. reflect critically upon their own development with emphasis on the identification of professional learning needs;
6. reflect critically on clinical activity and the limitations of their role and that of other disciplines within the practice setting to ensure patient safeguarding.
**Syllabus**
The syllabus has been divided into four broad areas.

1. Anatomy and Biomechanics of the Temporomandibular Joint and associated structures
2. Assessment and Differential Diagnosis
3. Pathology
4. Evidence Based Management

**Module assessment** consists of two components.

1. A written assignment of 4500 words which utilises the evidence base to support the diagnosis and management approaches taken with a TMD presentation.
2. A written reflective critical commentary of 1500 words on the student’s development as a practitioner in the assessment of TMD disorders, utilising a single patient journey model.

*In completing these assessments, students will be supported by a member of staff from the University.*

**Strengths of this module**
- High level of learning and assessment quality assurance gained from significant University experience in delivering higher level credit bearing professional development programmes
- Use of work based learning approach to maximise and capture learning and assessment from within the workplace.
- Access to excellent facilities including the University learning centres and online resources.
- The development of unique and customised online learning content, blended with face-to-face learning delivery which will provide highly flexible learning experiences at times convenient to learners in the workforce.

Whilst the module will run as a stand-alone programme, the credits can contribute towards a Masters degree within the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences.

**Entry requirements**
Prospective applicants must have a first degree or a professional diploma in an appropriate healthcare or related subject. They must be registered to practise with the appropriate Professional or Regulatory Body. Applicants must also demonstrate prior to admission that they have access to an appropriate clinical environment in which the diagnosis and management of temporomandibular case disorders present. This will usually be in the form of a letter of support from the applicant’s service manager.

**Module Cost** £700 (there are some funded places for those in the Health England North West region).

To request an application form please contact Lynn Jones
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