

A rare case of a patient presenting with acoustic neuroma and a temporomandibular joint disorder treated with chiropractic and dental care: A case report

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Objective: Acoustic neuromas (AN) are rare tumours of the eighth cranial nerve (CNVIII) and due to their symptoms are sometimes inappropriately diagnosed as temporomandibular joint disorders (TMD). This case is the first in the literature where a TMD might be a possible contribution to an AN presentation and contributing to confusing differential diagnosis.

Clinical Presentation: A 38-year-old Asian female presented with TMD, right-sided facial numbness, mild hearing loss, and tinnitus. The patient was seen by an ENT who referred her to this office and for a MRI, which demonstrated a 6mm right-sided AN.

Intervention and Outcome: While the AN was monitored by ENT, Chiropractic cranial/TMJ, sacro-occipital technique, and dental occlusal splint therapy was instituted for her severe TMD pain and associated disorders possibly related to coincidental/causal relationship to AN and/or TMD. She was seen for 16-visits over 3-months and her pain and associated disorders gradually diminished. Follow-up MRIs at 6-month (stable 6mm) and 1-year revealed a 50% decrease in tumor size (3mm) and surgery was canceled.

Conclusion: Co-managed care is essential with any AN since most commonly symptoms are associated with the tumor and any TMD related presentations are secondarily associated with mimicry syndromes.

Indexing terms: Chiropractic; Acoustic Neuroma; Temporomandibular Joint disorder; misdiagnosis; sacro-occipital technique



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