



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Jaw Injuries and Disorders

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/jawinjuriesanddisorders.html>

Jaw Injuries and Disorders

Your jaw is a set of bones that holds your teeth. It includes:

- The **maxilla**, which is the upper part of your jaw. It holds your top teeth in place and doesn't move. It also supports the muscles involved in chewing and facial expressions.
- The **mandible**, which is the lower part of your jaw. You move it when you talk or chew. It also holds your lower teeth in place.
- The **temporomandibular joints** (TMJs), which are two joints (one on each side) that connect your mandible to your skull.

Jaw problems can include:


- Fractures [<https://medlineplus.gov/fractures.html>] (broken bones).
- Dislocations [<https://medlineplus.gov/dislocations.html>] , which are joint injuries that force the ends of your bones out of position.
- Temporomandibular disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/temporomandibulardisorders.html>] (TMDs), which are conditions that affect your TMJs.
- Osteonecrosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/osteonecrosis.html>] , which happens when the blood flow to part of your bone is disrupted. It can cause the bone to break down.
- Jaw tumors, which can be benign (not cancer) or cancer.
- Jaw defects, which are birth defects [<https://medlineplus.gov/birthdefects.html>] in which your jaw could be missing or deformed.

Diagnostic imaging tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/diagnosticimaging.html>] are often used to diagnose jaw injuries and disorders. Your treatment will depend on which jaw problem you have.

Diagnosis and Tests

- Panoramic Dental X-Ray [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/panoramic-xray>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/panoramic-xray>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Chin augmentation - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100009_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100009_1.htm]
- Corrective Jaw Surgery [<https://myoms.org/what-we-do/corrective-jaw-surgery/>]
 (American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons)
- Treatment of Facial Injury [https://myoms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Ebook_facial_Injury_R.pdf]
(American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons) - **PDF**



Related Issues

- Bisphosphonate Therapy (and Osteonecrosis of the Jaw) [https://www.aaom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78:bisphosphonate-therapy&catid=22:patient-condition-information&Itemid=120] (American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons)





Specifics

- Fractures of the Jaw and Midface [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/injuries-and-poisoning/facial-injuries/fractures-of-the-jaw-and-midface>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/traumatismos-y-envenenamientos/lesiones-faciales/fracturas-mandibulares-y-de-la-zona-media-de-la-cara>]
- Jaw Dislocation [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/mouth-and-dental-disorders/urgent-dental-problems/jaw-dislocation>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-bucales-y-dentales/urgencias-dentales/luxaci%C3%B3n-de-la-mand%C3%ADbula>]
- Malocclusion (Misaligned Teeth) [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/mouth-and-dental-disorders/symptoms-of-oral-and-dental-disorders/malocclusion>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-bucales-y-dentales/s%C3%ADntomas-de-los-trastornos-orales-y-dentales/maloclusi%C3%B3n>]
- Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (ONJ) [<https://rheumatology.org/patients/osteonecrosis-of-the-jaw-onj>] (American College of Rheumatology)
Also in Spanish [<https://rheumatology.org/patients/osteonecrosis-de-mandibula>]

Genetics

- Auriculo-condylar syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/auriculo-condylar-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Hyperparathyroidism-jaw tumor syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hyperparathyroidism-jaw-tumor-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Jaw Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Jaw+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Jaw Fractures [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Jaw+Fractures%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Mandibular Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Mandibular+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Maxillary Diseases [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Maxillary+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Odontogenic infections in pregnant women. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40633083>]
- Article: Defining the optimal radiation thresholds for Stratifying jaw osteoradionecrosis risk in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40544869>]
- Article: Automated detection and classification of osteolytic lesions in panoramic radiographs using... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40544240>]
- Jaw Injuries and Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Jaw+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+OR+%22Jaw+Fractures%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+OR+%22Jaw%2Finjuries%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years>]

Find an Expert

- Find an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon [<https://myoms.org/find-a-surgeon/>]
(American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons)
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research [<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/espanol/>]

Patient Handouts

- Broken or dislocated jaw [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000019.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000019.htm>]
- Malocclusion of teeth [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001058.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001058.htm>]
- Micrognathia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003306.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003306.htm>]
- Prognathism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003026.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003026.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Broken or dislocated jaw [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000019.htm>]

Chin augmentation [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002986.htm>]

Chin augmentation - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100009_1.htm]

Malocclusion of teeth [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001058.htm>]

Micrognathia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003306.htm>]

Prognathism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003026.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Facial Injuries and Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/facialinjuriesanddisorders.html>]

Mouth Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/mouthdisorders.html>]

Temporomandibular Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/temporomandibulardisorders.html>]

Trigeminal Neuralgia [<https://medlineplus.gov/trigeminalneuralgia.html>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies. MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html] about external links and our [quality guidelines](https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)