Reviewer's report

Title: The NTI-tss device for the therapy of bruxism, temporomandibular disorders, and headache: where do we stand? A qualitative systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 24 February 2008

Reviewer: Edward F Wright

Reviewer's report:

I complement the authors on their thorough research of this topic. This is a well written article which brings out many important points on the NTI-tss device. This topic is of great importance to the public and the dental profession, and should definitely be published.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I recommend the Abstract's Conclusions be revised to: ...However, the risk of unwanted effects appears to be greater than with a stabilization appliance and should be used only if certain a patient will be compliant with follow-up appointments to observe for initial unwanted effects. The NTI-tss bite splint may be justified when a stabilization appliance therapy was not successful, when a reduction of jaw closer muscle activity (e.g., jaw clenching or tooth grinding), or as an emergency device a patient with acute TMD and, possibly, restricted jaw opening.

2. On top of page 16 (the page before Conclusion) the manuscript states: "take care that a patient receiving an NTI-tss device remains compliant, especially when wearing it over an extended period of time." I recommend the phrase "with follow-up appointments" be added after the word "compliant".

Discretionary Revisions

1. In Table 9 is the abbreviation "N.N." I do not know what the abbreviation stands for and the author could put a note with its meaning below the table.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests