



Psychological Profile and Sleep Quality of Patients with Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction with or without Bruxism

Bruksizmi Olan ve Olmayan Temporomandibular Eklem Bozukluğu Hastalarının Psikolojik Profili ve Uyku Kalitesi

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Abstract

Objective: Bruxism is characterised by clenching or grinding of the teeth due to contraction of the masseter, temporalis and other jaw muscles. This study aimed to evaluate the psychological profile and sleep quality of patients with temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) with or without bruxism.

Materials and Methods: The study was carried out in patients with TMD who were treated at the oral and maxillofacial surgery clinic of a faculty of dentistry. A total of 464 patients diagnosed with temporomandibular joint disorder according to the research diagnostic criteria for TMD were included in the study and divided into two groups based on presence or absence of bruxism. The State-trait Anxiety Inventory-T anxiety scale and Beck Depression scale were used to evaluate the psychological state of these patients. The quality of sleep was evaluated with Pittsburgh Sleep Quality index (PSQI). Data were analysed with the SPSS-20 statistical program.

Results: The frequency of bruxism was found to significantly alter in accordance with anxiety and depression levels ($p<0.005$). The rates of bruxism were 58.3%, 70.1% and 79% in the group with the lowest, moderate and severe anxiety levels, respectively. Bruxism was observed in 72.9%, 78.5% and 100% of the patients in the mild, moderate and severe depression groups, respectively. Significant differences were observed in the sleep quality of patients with TMD with and without bruxism. It was observed that 68.6% of patients with TMD and bruxism had poor sleep quality, while only 58.6% of those without bruxism had poor sleep quality ($p<0.005$). The scores for "sleep latency" and "sleep disturbances" were higher in the bruxism group as compared to non-bruxism group ($p<0.005$). However, no significant difference was noted in the total PSQI scores for both groups ($p=0.145$).

Conclusion: High anxiety and depression levels increased the incidence of bruxism. Patients with TMD and bruxism have poorer sleep quality than those with TMD but without bruxism.

Keywords: Sleep bruxism, psychological status, sleep quality, temporomandibular disorder

Öz

Amaç: Bruksizm masseter, temporalis ve diğer çene kaslarının kasılması nedeniyle dişlerin sıkılması veya öğütülmesi ile karakterizedir. Bu çalışmanın amacı, bruksizmi olan ve olmayan temporomandibular bozukluğu (TMD) olan hastaların psikolojik profilini ve uyku kalitesini değerlendirmektir.

Gereç ve Yöntem: Çalışma, bir diş hekimliği fakültesinin ağız ve çene-yüz cerrahisi kliniğine tedavi için gelen TMD hastaları üzerinde gerçekleştirildi. RDC/TMD'ye göre TME bozukluğu tanısı alan 464 hasta çalışmaya dahil edildi ve bruksizmi olan ve olmayan olmak üzere iki gruba ayrıldı. Psikolojik durumu değerlendirmek için STAI-T Anksiyete ölçeği ve Beck Depresyon ölçeği kullanıldı ve Pittsburgh Uyku Kalitesi indeksi (PSQI) ile uyku kalitesi değerlendirildi. Veriler SPSS-20 programı ile analiz edildi.

Bulgular: Bruksizm sıklığı anksiyete ve depresyon düzeylerine göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı derecede farklılık gösterdi ($p<0,005$). Bruksizm oranı en düşük anksiyete düzeyine sahip grupta %58,3, orta derecede anksiyete grubunda %70,1 ve şiddetli anksiyete grubunda %79 idi. Bruksizm hafif depresyon grubunun %72,9'unda, orta derece depresyon grubunun %78,5'inde ve şiddetli depresyonu olan grubun %100'ünde gözlemlendi. Bruksizmi olan ve olmayan TMD hastalarının uyku kalitesinde önemli farklılıklar gözlemlendi. Bruksizmi olan TMD hastalarının %68,6'sında, bruksizmi olmayanların %58,6'sında düşük uyku kalitesi gözlemlendi ($p<0,005$). Bruksizm hastalarının "uyku gecikmesi" ve "uyku bozuklukları" puanları bruksizmi olmayan gruptan daha yüksekti ($p<0,005$). Ancak toplam PSQI skorları açısından her iki grup arasında anlamlı fark yoktu ($p=0,145$).

Sonuç: Artan anksiyete ve depresyon düzeyleri hastalarda bruksizm insidansını artırdı. Bruksizmi olan TMD hastalarının, bruksizmi olmayanlara göre daha düşük uyku kalitesine sahip olduğu görüldü.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Uyku bruksizmi, psikolojik durum, uyku kalitesi, temporomandibular bozukluk

Introduction

According to the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, temporomandibular disorders (TMDs) are described as a group of disorders including masticatory muscles, the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), and related structures (1). The most common signs and symptoms of temporomandibular disorder (TMD) are chronic pain, jaw muscle aches, restricted range of jaw movement, and TMJ noise (2). TMD has multifactorial etiology, involving genetic and behavioral causes, direct and indirect traumas, psychological factors, and postural and para-functional behaviors (3-5). The etiology of TMDs is considered to be complex and its natural course remains unclear. It is believed to be risk factors responsible for the onset or progression of the disease (1). One of these factors is sleep bruxism (SB), which is described as repetitive jaw-muscle activity characterized by clenching or grinding (6).

Bruxism is an involuntary and repeated jaw muscle movement characterized by tightening and/or grinding of teeth. Bruxism has two circular manifestations that can occur during sleep (called SB) or wakefulness [called awake bruxism (AB)] (6). AB is currently associated with psychosocial factors and/or motor disorders, although the etiology of SB is not yet well understood (7,8). AB consists primarily of tooth clenching, though grinding is rarely seen. SB occurs more frequently with phasic (rhythmic), tonic (sustained), or mixed (both types) contractions of the jaw muscle (9). Several studies have indicated that SB is stimulated by the central nervous system, being correlated with micro-arousals and rhythmic masticatory muscle activity (RMMA) (10,11).

SB is regarded as a prevalent health issue and is present in 7.4% of the adult population (12). SB may lead to tooth wear (13), tooth and/or implants fractures (14), and headaches in the morning (15). It is also considered the predisposing and/or main cause of the TMD (16). The relationship between bruxism and TMD, based on data, remains still controversial in literature due to the complexity etiological nature (17). The last research has demonstrated that the prevalence of SB can be substantially associated with high state and trait anxiety (18). It is probable that underlying anxiety and stress can aggravate bruxism along with more frequent sleep arousals. SB is one of the most common parasomnia encountered by adults (19). Repeated arousal during sleep, linked to increased anxiety and stress is known to be the key cause of poor sleep quality (SQ) (20). Psychosocial factors such as stress, anxiety and depression and poor SQ have also been reported in TMD patients (21-24). Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine the emotional states and SQ in TMD patients with and without SB and to reveal whether there is a difference between these two groups.

Materials and Methods

The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Afyonkarahisar University of Health Sciences Turkey, Faculty of Medicine (2020/8-324). The study was conducted in full accordance with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki. This cross-sectional evaluation involved 464 adults

who sought treatment at the clinic of the oral and maxillofacial surgery, faculty of dentistry, Afyonkarahisar University of Health Sciences Turkey, Faculty of Medicine between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020. Written informed consents were obtained from all participants

The research diagnostic criteria for TMDs (25) was used to evaluate TMD patients. TMD patients over 18 years old who were diagnosed with TMD based on RDC/TMD diagnostic criteria were included in the study. Exclusion criteria consisted of psychiatric disability, neuromuscular disorders, malignancy, pregnancy, and current use of medication that could affect the central nervous system. A single calibrated oral and maxillofacial surgeon examined all patients and conducted all questionnaires and tests to patients. Four questionnaires were used in the current study.

Assessment of Sleep Bruxism

SB can be diagnosed through patient reports and clinical interviews, clinical examinations, intraoral appliances, or muscle activity recordings. According to the last international consensus, the diagnosis of bruxism made by self-report is classified as potential bruxism (6). According to American Academy of Sleep Medicine, SB was diagnosed if the participant reported or was aware of teeth-grinding sounds or teeth clenching during sleep. In addition, there must be one or more of the following signs: Abnormal tooth wear, temporary jaw muscle pain in the morning, muscle weakness at waking and hypertrophy of the masseter. The diagnosis of bruxism was made by a professional clinician on the basis of clinical diagnostic criteria for SB, as defined by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (26).

Assesment of Anxiety and Depression

The state-trait anxiety inventory (STAI-T) was used to measure the level of anxiety. The STAI, developed by Spielberger and Gorsuch (27) consists of two questionnaires: State anxiety (STAI-S; momentary, depends on external conditions) and trait anxiety (STAI-T; characteristic of an individual, personality dependent). STAI-T scale was used for the study. The validity and reliability study of the Turkish version of the scale was made by Öner and LeCompte. (28). The scale consists of 20 items and responses range from 1-4. For questions with positive characters, the points are calculated by reversing. The total score obtained from the scale is between 20-80, high score indicates anxiety level is high.

Depression levels of the participants were measured by Beck depression inventory. The validity and reliability of the Turkish form of the scale were made by Hisli (29). This scale assesses the patient's psycho-emotional disposition towards the underlying world by identifying 21 issues in the patient's mental state over the past 24 hours. The questions were responded by participants using the four-point scale (0-3). By adding all the answers a total score has been obtained.

Assessment of Sleep Quality

The Turkish version of the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality index (PSQI) was used to assessed SQ. The PSQI consists of 19 questions and seven components: subjective SQ, sleep latency, sleep duration,

habitual sleep efficiency, sleep disturbances, use of sleeping medications, and daytime dysfunction (26). Each portion is scored between 0 and 3; higher scores indicate the bad quality of sleep. A PSQI total score ranging from 0 to 21 points is obtained by adding the component points. Scores greater than five indicate poorer SQ.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for Windows software, version 20.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used for statistical analysis to evaluate the data. In the descriptive analysis, the number, percentage, mean, and standard deviation values were given. Independent samples t-test and One-Way ANOVA were used in cases with normal distribution, Mann-

Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis analysis test were used in cases without normal distribution. Chi-square analysis was used for categorical variables. Results were evaluated in a 95% confidence interval, at $p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.001$ significance levels.

Results

The sociodemographic characteristics of patients with TMJ dysfunction with and without bruxism were given in Table 1. Accordingly, the majority of the participants (82.8%) were women. Approximately one-third of the participants (29.3%) were in the 3rd decade age range. 48% of the participants were married and 5.6% were divorced. 33.6% of the participants were high school graduates and 30.8% were middle school

Demographic data	Total		TMD with SB		TMD without SB		p
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Gender							
Female	384	82.8	307	79.9	77	20.1	p=0.000†
Male	80	17.2	46	57.5	34	42.5	
Age							
<20 years old	103	22.2	75	72.8	28	27.2	p=0.018‡
20-29 years old	136	29.3	92	67.6	44	32.4	
30-39 years old	115	24.8	97	84.3	18	15.7	
40-49 years old	68	14.7	54	79.4	14	20.6	
50 and over age	42	9.1	35	83.3	7	16.7	
Marital status							
Married	223	48.1	173	77.6	50	22.4	p=0.348
Single	215	46.3	158	73.5	57	26.5	
Divorced	26	5.6	22	84.6	4	15.4	
Education status							
Primary school	122	26.3	85	69.7	37	30.3	p=0.004‡
Secondary school	143	30.8	99	69.2	44	30.8	
High school	156	33.6	132	84.6	24	15.4	
Faculty	40	8.6	34	85	6	15	
Graduate	3	0.6	3	100	0	0	
BMI							
<18.5 kg/m ² (weak)	30	6.5	23	76.7	7	23.3	p=0.446
18.5-24.9 kg/m ² (normal)	243	52.4	178	73.3	65	26.7	
25-29.9 kg/m ² (overweight)	144	31	116	80.6	28	19.4	
>30 kg/m ² (obese)	47	10.1	36	76.6	11	23.4	
Occupation							
Student	151	32.5	108	71.5	43	28.5	p=0.000‡
Housewife	118	25.4	85	72	33	28	
Worker	65	14	47	72.3	18	27.7	
Officer	67	14.4	61	91	6	9	
Self-employment	20	4.3	20	100	0	0	
Retired	12	2.6	12	100	0	0	
Unemployed	31	6.7	20	64.5	11	35.5	
Total	464	100	353	-	111	-	

†: $p < 0.001$, ‡: $p < 0.005$, BMI: Body Mass index, TMD: Temporomandibular dysfunction, SB: Sleep bruxism

graduates. According to the Body Mass index (BMI), 52.4% of the participants were at a normal weight. Most of the participants were students and housewives.

Sociodemographic Features and Bruxism

When bruxism status of patients was evaluated in terms of gender, 79.9% of women and 57.5% of men had bruxism. Accordingly, the frequency of bruxism was found significantly higher in women ($p<0.001$). The frequency of bruxism varies significantly with age in the study ($p<0.005$). According to this, bruxism was the most common in patients between the ages of 30-39, followed by patients aged 50 and over. Although bruxism was observed at the highest levels among divorced participants, there was no statistically significant difference in marital status ($p=0.348$). As the education level increased, the incidence of bruxism increased and a significant difference occurred in terms of education level ($p<0.005$). The highest level of bruxism was seen in graduate, undergraduate and high school graduates, respectively. There was no significant difference in the frequency of bruxism in terms of BMI ($p=0.446$). The frequency of bruxism showed a significant difference in terms of the occupation of the participants ($p<0.005$). The rate of bruxism was higher among self-employed, retirees and civil servants.

Psychological Status and Bruxism

The psychological status of individuals has a great role in the emergence of bruxism. The anxiety and depression levels of TMJ patients with and without bruxism were evaluated and the differences between the two groups were examined. The anxiety level of the participants was evaluated with the STAI-2 scale. Accordingly, mild anxiety was observed in 5.2%, moderate anxiety in 20.9% and severe anxiety in 73.9% (Table 2). The frequency of bruxism was found to be statistically significantly changed according to anxiety levels ($p<0.005$). The rate of bruxism was 58.3% in the group with the lowest anxiety level, 70.1% in the moderate anxiety group and 79% in the severe anxiety group. As the levels of anxiety increased, the rate of bruxism increased. In addition, when the STAI

scale scores of TMJ patients with and without bruxism were examined, it was observed that the group with bruxism had a significantly higher STAI score than the group without bruxism ($p<0.005$).

Depression levels of the participants were evaluated using the Beck Depression scale. In terms of depression levels, 43.5% of the participants had normal depression, 28.7% had mild depression, 23.1% had moderate depression and 4.7% had severe depression (Table 3). There was a significant relationship between the level of depression and the rate of bruxism ($p<0.005$). Bruxism was observed in 72.9% of the mild depression group, 78.5% of the moderate depression group and 100% of the group with severe depression. As the level of depression increased, the rate of bruxism increased significantly.

Sleep Quality and Bruxism

The SQ of TMD patients with and without bruxism was given in Table 4. Accordingly, while 31.4% of TMD patients with bruxism had good SQ, 68.6% of them had poor SQ. While 41.4% of those without bruxism had good SQ, 58.6% of them were found to have poor SQ. It was observed that the patients with bruxism had poor SQ compared to patients without bruxism ($p<0.005$). SQ of patients with and without TME dysfunction with and without bruxism was assessed by the PSQI. The PSQI index total score of patients with bruxism was 6.64, while the total score of patients without bruxism was 6.10. Total PSQI scores in both groups showed poor sleep levels. However, there was no significant difference in terms of total PSQI scores of both groups ($p=0.145$).

When patients with TMJ dysfunction with and without bruxism were examined in terms of the components that make up the PSQI SQ, only a significant difference was observed in the components of "sleep latency" and "sleep disorders" ($p<0.005$). The mean scores of "sleep latency" and "sleep disturbances" in patients with bruxism were higher than the non-bruxism group. Patients with bruxism had poor SQ than the group without bruxism. There was no significant difference between the two groups in terms of other components of PSQI (Table 5).

Table 2. Anxiety levels of the TMD patients with/without bruxism

			TMD		Total	p
			With SB	Without SB		
STAI-T	Mild anxiety	Number (n)	14	10	24	p=0.022 [‡]
		% within STAI	58.3%	41.7%	100.0%	
		% of total	3.0%	2.2%	5.2%	
	Moderate anxiety	Number (n)	68	29	97	
		% within STAI	70.1%	29.9%	100.0%	
		% of total	14.7%	6.2%	20.9%	
	Severe anxiety	Number (n)	271	72	343	
		% within STAI	79.0%	21.0%	100.0%	
		% of total	58.4%	15.5%	73.9%	
Total	Number (n)	353	111	464		
	% within RSTAI	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%		
	% of total	76.1%	23.9%	100.0%		

[‡]: $p<0.005$, TMD: Temporomandibular dysfunction, SB: Sleep bruxism, STAI-T: State-trait anxiety inventory

Table 3. Depression levels of the TMD patients with/without bruxism

			TMD		Total	p
			With SB	Without SB		
Beck depression	Normal depression	Number (n)	150	52	202	p=0.039 [‡]
		% within depression group	74.3%	25.7%	100.0%	
		% of total	32.3%	11.2%	43.5%	
	Mild depression	Number (n)	97	36	133	
		% within depression group	72.9%	27.1%	100.0%	
		% of total	20.9%	7.8%	28.7%	
	Moderate depression	Number (n)	84	23	107	
		% within depression group	78.5%	21.5%	100.0%	
		% of total	18.1%	5.0%	23.1%	
	Severe depression	Number (n)	22	0	22	
		% within depression group	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	
		% of total	4.7%	0.0%	4.7%	
Total		Number (n)	353	111	464	
% within depression group		76.1%	23.9%	100.0%		
% of total		76.1%	23.9%	100.0%		

TMD: Temporomandibular dysfunction, SB: Sleep bruxism, ‡: p<0.005

Table 4. Sleep quality levels of TMD patients with and without bruxism

			TMD		Total	p	
			With SB	Without SB			
Sleep quality	Good sleep	Number (n)	111	46	157	p=0.035 [‡]	
		% within sleep quality	70.7%	29.3%	100.0%		
		% within bruxism	31.4%	41.4%	33.8%		
		% of total	23.9%	9.9%	33.8%		
	Poor sleep	Number (n)	242	65	307		
		% within sleep quality	78.8%	21.2%	100.0%		
		% within bruxism	68.6%	58.6%	66.2%		
		% of total	52.2%	14.0%	66.2%		
	Total		Number (n)	353	111		464
	% within sleep quality		76.1%	23.9%	100.0%		
% of total		76.1%	23.9%	100.0%			

‡: p<0.005, TMD: Temporomandibular dysfunction, SB: Sleep bruxism

Table 5. PSQI scores of TMD patients with and without sleep bruxism

PSQI dimensions	TMD with SB		TMD without SB		p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1. Subjective sleep quality	1.22	0.686	1.16	0.681	p=0.388
2. Sleep latency	1.46	0.859	1.24	0.896	p=0.021 [‡]
3. Sleep duration	0.57	0.914	0.58	0.919	p=0.939
4. Sleep efficiency	0.61	0.824	0.61	0.875	p=0.957
5. Sleep disturbances	1.54	0.643	1.35	0.655	p=0.006 [‡]
6. Use of sleep medication	0.18	0.594	0.17	0.537	p=0.768
7. Daytime sleep dysfunction	1.02	0.857	0.94	0.851	p=0.393
PSQI global score	6.64	3.417	6.10	3.267	p=0.145

‡: p<0.005, SD: Standard deviation, TMD: Temporomandibular dysfunction, SB: Sleep bruxism, PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality index

Discussion

Bruxism is characterized by clenching or grinding the teeth because of the contraction of the masseter, temporalis, and other jaw muscles. Bruxism can lead to hypertrophy of the masticating muscles, loss of the tooth surface, fracture of restorations or teeth, hypersensitive or painful teeth, and loss of periodontal tissue. When polysomnography (PSG) sleep studies are conducted, SB and/or obstructive sleep apnea are often reported in TMD patients, but the associations with TMD for these two sleep-associated disorders are still poorly understood (30,31). Despite the widely discussed concept of SB, etiology, prevalence, and relationship with TMD, many characteristics of this parafunction remain uncertain. Reports on the quality of sleep-related to bruxism are very few. Thus, this study aimed to compare psychological status and SQ in TMD patients with and without SB.

Recent research has demonstrated that SB frequency can be substantially associated with high-level state and trait anxiety, and those experiencing bruxism are twice as likely to experience extreme stress as non-bruxers (18,20). The rate of bruxism was 58.3% in the group with the mild anxiety level, 70.1% in the moderate anxiety group and 79% in the severe anxiety group. Similarly, bruxism was observed in 72.9% of the mild depression group, 78.5% of the moderate depression group and 100% of the group with severe depression. These findings reveal that the frequency of bruxism is associated with anxiety and depression levels, and as the level of anxiety and depression increases, the frequency of bruxism increases.

Self-reported SQ was also evaluated in patients with SB, a condition that for many decades has been considered an etiological, sustaining and/or exacerbating factor for chronic myofascial TMD (32). The average sleep bruxer PSQI scores ranged from 6.08 to 10.8, which indicates a low SQ in SB patients (33,34). In the study of Câmara-Souza et al. (35), total PSQI score of the group with bruxism was 7.07 and poor sleep was reported in 80% of those with bruxism. Dias et al. (36) reported that 75.6% of bruxers were poor sleepers, whatever the form of bruxism. In our study, poor sleep observed in 68.6% of TMD patients with bruxism while 58.6% of TMD patients without bruxism. The group with bruxism had significantly poor SQ than the group without bruxism. Similar to the literature, in this study, the PSQI index total score of bruxism patients was found to be 6.64, while the total score of patients without bruxism was 6.10. In our study, the reason for the high PSQI score of the group without bruxism can be explained by the fact that this group consists of TMD patients instead of completely healthy controls. Sleep disorders that also coexist with psychological distress have also been shown to be a risk factor for TMD (21,22). Up to 90% of patients with TMD usually experience poor SQ (23). Up to 70 percent of patients with TMD meet at least one criterion for a sleep disorder and 43 percent meet two or more criteria (24). However, these study findings are important to show that TMD patients with bruxism have lower SQ than those without bruxism. This could be explained by the non-physiological RMMA which occurs with a

higher intensity and frequency mostly accompanied by masseter muscle activity particularly in bruxers (37). This makes the sleep non-restorative and may cause tiredness and/or muscle pain at awakening (15,38).

In our study, the "sleep latency" and "sleep disorders" components of TMD patients with bruxism were the two components affected by bruxism. There was no significant difference between the two groups in the other components of the PSQI index. In the PSG study of Palinkas et al. (38), similar to our results, higher sleep latency scores were observed in those with bruxism than those without bruxism. Another study has shown that the main areas affected by bruxism are subjective SQ and sleep disturbance (35). SB has been shown to be part of a complex central nervous system arousal response that occurs during sleep depth changes and is often followed by body movements, elevated heart rate, and respiratory changes (39,40). These parameters affect the discharge of chemical mediators that stimulate the release of catecholamine, changing the initiation and maintenance of wakefulness and sleep (41). Additionally, alterations in sleep habits may worsen pain in SB patients (42), which directly affects SQ.

Study Limitations

The study had some limitations. The study included patients receiving TMD therapy and the results do not represent the general population. Laboratory sleep evaluation is needed to establish a definitive diagnosis of SB, but it is costly and inaccessible for large samples. The quality of sleep was evaluated with a subjective sleep questionnaire instead of PSG. The strengths of our study are that it was conducted in the large TMD sample group and it was the diagnosis TMD after the RDC/TMD diagnostic criteria, which are accepted as the gold standard (25).

Conclusion

The results of this study revealed that patients with bruxism have higher levels of anxiety and depression and poor SQ than those without bruxism. SB may be related to negative poor SQ of adults. Considering that bruxers are highly sensitive to psychological stress, and that psychophysiological insomnia is characterized by stress response, this could explain the loss of quality of sleep in bruxers.

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Ethics Committee Approval: The questionnaire and methodology for this study was approved by the Human Research Ethics committee of the Afyonkarahisar University of Health Sciences Turkey, Faculty of Medicine (2020/8-324).

Informed Consent: Informed consent was obtained from all study participants.

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