

Functional tooth guidance and preferred chewing side

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OBJECTIVES To study relationships between functional tooth guidance and preferred chewing side in natural dentition. **MATERIALS AND METHODS** The subjects were 111 Chulalongkorn University dental patients, male and female, mean age 42.39, with at least 20 natural teeth, without muscle and joint pain, without limitation in jaw movements, and non-ongoing orthodontic treatment. The study was carried out through the examination both centric and eccentric occlusion and the interview of chewing ability, side of preference and reason. **RESULTS** In this study, age and gender had no relationship with dental occlusion ($p>.05$). As 44 subjects had tooth-gum ache and limited chewing ability, only 67 subjects were studied. The subjects' occlusal examinations were of 22-32 teeth, enough anterior and posterior tooth support in centric and eccentric, and no interference. The eccentric occlusion was : group function on 44 right (65.7%) 40 left (59.7%), canine protection and anterior guidance on 23 right (34.3%) 27 left (40.3%), and balancing contact on 13 right (19.4%) 12 left (17.9%). The interviewing results were the subjects had bilateral chewing ability, but they preferred chewing on one side to the other side (88.6%). Using chi-square, functional tooth guidance had no significant correlation with preferred chewing side ($p>.05$). By the way, habit was selected to be the important reason (67.2%). **CONCLUSION** There was no relationship between functional tooth guidance and preferred chewing side in these subjects' natural dentition occlusion.

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