

INDICATION: The patient was struck in the face in the chin area two weeks ago and is complaining of bilateral temporomandibular joint pain and pressure and popping sensation. The pain is more prominent on the left.

TECHNIQUE: Coronal T1, sagittal T1, dual-echo closed-mouth, and sagittal T1 open-mouth views of the left temporomandibular joint were performed.

COMPARISON: MRI of the right temporomandibular joint performed on the same day.

FINDINGS: The intra-articular disc is displaced anteriorly to the mandibular condyle and temporal eminence in both the open and closed-mouth positions. There is degeneration and tearing of the posterior limb of the intra-articular disc. No joint effusion. No acute fracture or bone marrow contusion. On the open-mouth view, there is limited excursion of the mandibular condyle and intra-articular disc similar to the contralateral side, possibly blocked by the intra-articular disc displacement anteriorly. This finding is likely the cause of the limited open-mouth and excursion of the mandibular condyle on both sides. Mild subcortical sclerosis along the temporal eminence and minimally along the mandibular condyle with slight marginal osteophyte formation consistent with mild arthritis. This finding is favored not to be related to a recent trauma, more chronic degenerative etiology.

Mastoid air cells are well aerated. The visualized left temporal lobe and left masseter muscles are normal.

IMPRESSION:

The intra-articular disc is displaced anteriorly to the mandibular condyle and temporal eminence on both the open and closed-mouth views. There is degeneration and degenerative tearing of the posterior limb of the intra-articular disc. This intra-articular disc is likely blocking normal excursion of the mandibular condyle on the open-mouth view and also likely the cause of limited excursion on the right side. There is mild secondary osteoarthritis of the temporomandibular joint with sclerosis and small marginal osteophyte formation. No joint effusion or cortical erosions. These findings are favored not to be related to the recent altercation and injury to the face.