



Importance of pterygomandibular ligament in the orofacial manual approach.

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Abstract :

The pterygomandibular ligament is an anatomical structure which runs from the inner wing of the pterygoid process and the hamulus to the inner part of the mandible, so that it is located posterior to the mylohyoid line, in relation to the pharynx. It forms in this way a link between labial and buccinator musculature, and the superior pharyngeal constrictor muscle. Due to its location, this ligament plays a fundamental role in the ontogeny of the face, especially in its vertical dimension. It could participate, during swallowing, thanks to its relationship with the buccinator muscle and the tensor veli palatini muscle, in the structures that control the transverse

growth of the face. In addition, this link with the pharynx would allow it to be able to influence the position of the head and cervical posture.

Therefore, the palpation and localisation of this ligament are essential in the orofacial sphere manual approach.

Materials and methods: The pterygomandibular ligament and its links with other anatomical structures were dissected on 10 specimens from voluntary donations from the Facultat de Medicina y Ciències de la Salut (Campus Bellvitge); Universitat de Barcelona.

Results: During our dissections we observed the pterygomandibular ligament, the buccinator muscle, the superior pharyngeal constrictor muscle and the other structures in relation with it.

Conclusion: This study results allow confirm the different possibilities of palpation and suggest new palpatory and diagnostic approach in an orofacial disfunction context.

Conflict of interest declaration.

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.