

## Study Protocol:

### Study Title:

Evaluation of Temporomandibular Joint Disorders (TMD) in Completely Edentulous Syrian Patients Before and After Delivery of Removable Prostheses

### Design:

This study includes:

A cross-sectional descriptive phase assessing TMD in edentulous patients.

A follow-up phase evaluating the same patients after 3 and 6 months of wearing new removable prostheses.

### Setting & Duration:

Conducted at the Faculty of Dentistry – Damascus University, 2021–2024

### Participants:

Total: 103 completely edentulous adults.

Inclusion criteria: Adults aged 30–80, edentulous for over a year, no systemic joint or muscular disorders, no previous TMD treatment.

Exclusion: Partial edentulism, facial asymmetries, systemic joint diseases, or refusal to consent.

### Evaluation:

TMD signs assessed per RDC/TMD Axis I (joint sounds, pain, movements).

Psychological factors assessed via RDC/TMD Axis II (depression & somatization).

Pain measured using VAS.

Follow-up reassessment done post-delivery at 3 and 6 months.

### Data Analysis:

Statistical analysis used SPSS v9 with Chi-square and Mann–Whitney tests.

Significance set at  $p < 0.05$ .

### Ethics Statement:

No ethics board approval required as no experimental intervention was conducted.

All participants gave informed written consent.