The objective of the research: to study the anatomical and morphometric peculiarities of TMJ in the second trimester of human intrauterine development.

The object and methods of research. Anatomical peculiarities of TMJ in the second trimester of intrauterine development (4-6-month-old fetuses) were studied on 30 specimens sized 161.0-295.0 mm of crown-heel length (CHL). The following methods were used in the course of the study: morphometry, craniometry, macro- and microdissection, computed tomography.

Results of the research and their discussion. The glenoid fossa in fetuses aged 4-6 months was found to be flat. The bone substance in the glenoid fossa is thin. There are no pronounced prominences on the basis of the malar eminence of the temporal bone which confirms the absence of the articular tubercle in this period. One can see the development of the elements of the synovial membrane in the articular capsule. In the lower and upper parts of the articular cavity, the folds and ligaments of the connective tissue plate are identified, and the capillaries grow...
into the synovial membrane. In some places there are connective tissue membranes between the surfaces of the temporal bone and the articular disk, the articular disk and the head of mandible. Macroscopically, the articular disk has a dense structure, it is arranged between the articular surfaces, from the back surface (dorsal part) of the articular disk to the inner surface of the articular capsule the taenia of the connective tissue is identified. Anteriorly, the articular disk is attached in the area of the future articular tubercle. The fibers of the lateral wing muscle grow into the taenia of the connective tissue anteriorly. In the middle part and in the front the lateral wing muscle adjoins to the TMJ, and the parotid gland from the outside and in the upper part. The right and left TMJ are of the same size. The morphometric indices of the outer structures of the TMJ in the dynamics of the second trimester are gradually increasing.

4-month-old fetuses are characterized by the flat articular fossa, the articular tubercle is not determined. Synovial membrane is formed in the cavity of the joint. Cartilaginous tissue embraces the outer edge of the condyloid process in the form of strip. The density of the cartilaginous substance increases in the direction towards the surface of the condyloid process, it is difficult to dissect, the cartilage gradually turns into perichondrium and has the appearance of a dense plate. The border between cartilage and osseous tissue is uneven. Lateral pterygoid muscle is attached to the condyloid process from the front. The articular disc is formed by a coarse fibrous connective tissue. The tissue of the articular disc is pierced through by single blood vessels. In certain areas, their number increases, but closer to the attachment of the articular disc to the anterior part of the articular capsule, the number of vessels decreases. Circumference at the level of glabella, parietal tubers and inion (external occipital protuberance) is 132±7.63 mm, the distance between the parietal tubers equals to 36±3 mm. The distance between glabella and inion in the sagittal plane is 43.3±3 mm, the distance between the most remote points of the zygomatic arch is 31.6±2.08 mm. The distance between the nasion and the gnathion (the most remote points of the zygomatic arch) is 41.1±3.1 mm, between the nasion and the gnathion – 27.25±2.21 mm. The TMJ is formed during the 6th month of development. Well-pronounced upper and lower articular fissures are observed. The articular capsule is formed by fibrous tissue. Both capita of the lateral pterygoid muscle and the parotid gland are well distinguished. There is a substitution of cartilaginous tissue of the condyloid process of the mandible by osseous tissue (ossification). The sizes of the lower and upper articular fissures are equal. Articular disc is represented by coarse fibrous cartilaginous tissue. The articular fossa is represented by a thin bone plate. The distance between the right and left mandibular processes is 48.5±3.87 mm, between the right and left gonions – 40.2±1.7 mm. The length of the body of the mandible is 23.5±1.2 mm, the height of the ramus of the mandible is 11.2±0.95 mm. The distance between the right and left mental tubercles is 11.2±0.95 mm, between the process of the lower jaw and the mental tubercle – 33.2±2.5 mm. The distance between the gonion and the pogonion is 19±2 mm, the transverse width of TMJ – 1.62±0.09 mm.

Beginning from the 5th month, there is a further differentiation of the TMJ structures and the synovial bursa itself, the articular disc and the upper and lower fissure between the articular surfaces are clearly observed, and the size of the fissures is the same (figure). The upper fissure is slightly more medial than the lower one. Articular disc is sutured with the synovial bursa. Further development of the joint occurs in the upper direction. There is an ingrowth of lateral pterygoid muscle into the articular capsule and the articular disc, the articular fossa of the temporal bone remains flat. The distance between the right and left mandibular processes is 40±3.91 mm, between the right and left gonions – 32±3 mm. The length of the body of the mandible is 19.2±1.25 mm, the height of the ramus of the mandible – 8.7±0.9 mm. The distance between the right and left mental tubercle is 9.5±0.5 mm, the distance between the mandibular process and the mental tubercle is 25.75±1.7 mm. The distance between the gonion and the pogonion is 24±1.6 mm, the transverse width of TMJ constitutes 1.91±0.07 mm. In 5-month-old fetuses, the circumference measured over glabella, parietal tubers and inion equals to 171.5±12.6 mm, the distance between the parietal tubers is 45±4.5 mm, the sagittal distance between glabella and inion is 55.75±3.86 mm, the distance between the most remote points of the zygomatic arch is 41.1±3.1 mm, between the nasion and the gnathion – 27.25±2.21 mm. The TMJ is formed during the 6th month of development. Well-pronounced upper and lower articular fissures are observed. The articular capsule is formed by fibrous tissue. Both capita of the lateral pterygoid muscle and the parotid gland are well distinguished. There is a substitution of cartilaginous tissue of the condyloid process of the mandible by osseous tissue (ossification). The sizes of the lower and upper articular fissures are equal. Articular disc is represented by coarse fibrous cartilaginous tissue. The articular fossa is represented by a thin bone plate. The distance between the right and left mandibular processes is 48.5±3.87 mm, between the right and left gonions – 40.2±1.7 mm. The length of the body of the mandible is 23.5±1.2 mm, the height of the ramus of the mandible is 11.2±0.95 mm. The distance between the right and left mental tubercles is 11.2±0.95 mm, between the process of the lower jaw and the mental tubercle – 33.2±2.5 mm. The distance between the gonion and the pogonion is 19±2 mm, the transverse width of TMJ – 1.62±0.09 mm.
Figure. The region of the temporomandibular joint of the fetus sized 211.0 mm of crown-heel length. Macroslide. Enhanced x2.6: 1 – temporomandibular joint; 2 – zygomatic bone; 3 – temporal muscle; 4 – parotid gland; 5 – mandible; 6 – superficial portion of masseter muscle; 7 – profound portion of masseter muscle

57.5±5.5 mm. The sagittal distance between glabella and inion is 73±6.2 mm, the transverse distance between the most remote points of the zygomatic arch is 53±5 mm, between the nasion and the gnathion it equals to 34.75±2.2mm.

Conclusion. Therefore, in the dynamics of the second trimester of intrauterine development, the temporomandibular joint is characterized by the presence of a flat glenoid fossa and the absence of an articular tubercle. An increase in all craniometric indices is observed, indicating an increase in the total bone mass of the skull and an increase in the size of the temporomandibular joint.

Outlooks of the scientific inquiry. The obtained and systematized results of the study can be used in the laboratories for screening morphological material in order to estimate the degree of maturing, for predicting a body’s vital capacity as well as diagnosing abnormalities in normal development with suggestions as to their correction.

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MORPHOMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS OF TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT IN HUMAN DURING THE SECOND TRIMESTER OF INTRAUTERINE DEVELOPMENT

Abstract. The article provides data on the anatomical features of temporomandibular joint in the second trimester of fetal development, certain methods of anatomy, morphometry and craniometry. The glenoid fossa in fetuses aged 4-6 months was found to be flat. The bone substance in the glenoid fossa is thin. One can see the development of the elements of the synovial membrane in the articular capsule. In the lower and upper parts of the articular cavity, the folds and ligaments of the connective tissue plate are identified, and the capillaries grow into the synovial membrane. In some places there are connective tissue membranes between the surfaces of the temporal bone and the articular disk, the articular disk and the head of mandible. Macroscopically, the articular disk has a dense structure, it is arranged between the articular surfaces, from the back surface of the articular disk to the inner surface of the articular capsule the taenia of the connective tissue is identified. Anteriorly, the articular disk is attached in the area of the future articular tubercle. The right and lefts temporomandibular joint are of the same size. In the dynamics of the second trimester of intrauterine development, the temporomandibular joint is characterized by the presence of a flat glenoid fossa and the absence of an articular tubercle. An increase in all craniometric indices is observed, indicating an increase in the total bone mass of the skull and an increase in the size of the temporomandibular joint.

Key words: temporomandibular joint; the second trimester; anatomy; human.

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