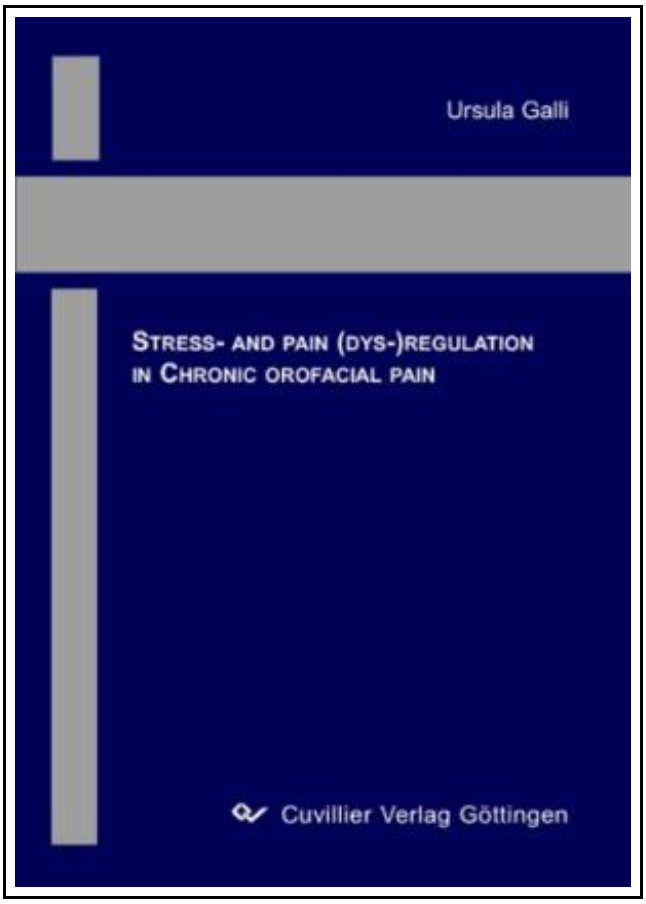
Stress - and - Pain - (Dys)Regulation in Chronic Orofacial Pain



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(Roosevelt Rohan)

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Cuvillier Verlag Okt 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 208x144x10 mm. Neuware - The aim of this research was to examine patients with chronic orofacial pain with regard to two significant facets of stress and pain regulation û on the one hand the neuroendocrinological system of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and on the other hand subjective illness beliefs, as measured by LeventhalÆs self-regulation model (SRM) (Leventhal et al., 1998). The significant effect of psychological and psychosocial factors on the chronicity of pain has been proved in numerous empirical studies and although stress has been investigated for some time as one of the most important psychosocial factors of chronic orofacial pain, there are hardly any studies that examine the underlying mechanisms of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. For this reason we conducted two studies at the interdisciplinary orofacial pain consultant service at the Center for Dental and Oral Medicine and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery of the University of Zurich. The first study investigated a possible dysregulation of the HPA axis by means of the ôlow-dose dexamethasone testö. Twenty patients (17 females, 3 males) with chronic myogenous facial pain were dentally examined according to the criteria for RDC/TMD. Further, each underwent a personal interview and completed a series of questionnaires (DIAX, HADS-D, Fatigue Scale, VAS Scales of pain intensity and quality of sleep). The control group comprised 20 healthy subjects, matched by gender, age and BMI. Salivary cortisol was measured on two consecutive days (awakening and daytime profile). 0,5 mg of dexamethasone was administered on the first evening. Results: in comparison to controls, chronic myogenous facial pain patients showed enhanced and prolonged suppression of cortisol following the administration of 0,5 mg of dexamethasone. Unstimulated cortisol response to awakening and daytime cortisol levels did not differ between the groups. Dysregulation in terms of enhanced negative feedback suppression exists...

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