

alloy device. The drawback appears to be that about 10% of patients develop a foreign body reaction. The custom-made prostheses, Concepts, have been in use for 17 years with a 90% success rate. A stock prosthesis similar to the Concepts prosthesis has been in use for about 10 years. As more experience with the replacement joints is gained, the indications and contraindications of the procedure and prostheses will become clearer.

Discussion.—Rather than jumping immediately into surgery, the current TMJ surgeon has several options available. Referral to a pain management clinic should be considered, as well as other conservative options. If these fail and the diagnosis indicates a surgical approach, various choices can be made. Currently few reports document the long-term results of the available surgical techniques, so further study is needed.

Clinical Significance.—The conservative management of TMJ disorders is expanding and achieving results better than those achieved with surgery in many cases. We need to develop better guidelines to walk practitioners through the management alternatives and clearly spell out the benefits and drawbacks to be expected.

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EXTRACTS

LATEX GLOVES — POWDER = FEWER ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Geisinger Health System clinicians stopped using powdered latex gloves in 2001. A follow-up study of health-care workers in the system found that workers' compensation claims for latex illness declined from 12 to 4.5 annually over 4 years' time and the average workers' compensation payment was only \$2505 rather than the \$34,789 seen before the change. The powder-free latex gloves initially cost the hospitals more, but the fall in workers' compensation claims and decline in water and soap needed to clean the powder offset most of that expense. Dermatologist Patricia Malerich, the primary study author, expressed the hope that "this decreased exposure to latex proteins carried in powdered gloves will also lead to fewer allergic reactions in latex-sensitive patients."

[Powder Free Gloves in Hospitals Decreases Allergy Risk. *Medical News Today*, March 7, 2009.]