In spite of a certain progress and intensive development of dental technologies there are a number of unsolved issues concerning the dentoalveolar system structures [1, 2]. One of its important structures is the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). Impaired development of the TMJ provokes changes of the facial contour and defects, degeneration or hypertrophy of the masticatory and mimic muscles, disorders of swallowing and chewing, and occlusion [3, 4]. A considerable number of publications in scientific literature dealing with various aspects of dental anatomy still do not sufficiently study age anatomy and morphological peculiarities of the TMJ in the third trimester of the intrauterine development and early neonatal period of human ontogenesis.

**Material and methods.** The study was conducted on 19 samples of fetuses 301,0–450,0 mm of the parietal-calcaneal length and 6 samples of neonates by means of the methods of morphometry and craniometry, macro- and micropreparation, computed tomography and statistical analysis. Parietal-calcaneal, parietal-coccyeal length, head circumference, biparietal diameter, cranial length, facial breadth and height were determined. By means of craniometry the following parameters of the mandible were determined: Bi-Co distance (transverse distance between the right and left condylar processes of the mandible), Bi-Go distance (between the right and left “gonion” points), Bi-M distance (transverse distance between the right and left genial tubercles), height of mandibular branch (distance between the body and condylar process of the mandible), mandibular body length (distance from the body to the genial tubercle lined along the inferior border of the mandible), Co-M distance (between the condylar process and genial tubercle of the mandible), Go-Po distance (between

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**Objective:** to determine anatomical peculiarities of the TMJ in the third trimester of the intrauterine development and early neonatal period of human ontogenesis.

**Key words:** temporomandibular joint; third trimester; neonates; anatomy.
craniometric “gonion” and “pogonion” points), mandibular angle (angle between the inferior border of the mandible and posterior border of the mandibular branch), sagittal length of the mandible (distance between the middle point of Bi-Go and genial tubercle). The anterior-posterior size of the temporomandibular joint articular capsule was measured separately. Morphometric and craniometric parameters were statistically analyzed by means of the method of descriptive statistics applying computer engineering and software StatPlus (AnalystSoft, 2006). The results included into the normal distribution were processed by means of the methods of variation statistics calculating arithmetic mean (x) and mean-squared error (MSE) (xS). Pearson correlation was applied to study interrelations between the parameters of the temporomandibular joint, cranio- and morphometry. P≤0,05 was considered to be statistically significant. Computed tomography method was used to measure osseous-cartilaginous elements of the skull and lower jaw as well as for objectification of the obtained results.

**Results and discussion.** During the 7th month of the intrauterine development the mandibular fossa of the temporal bone is located lower from the level of the zygomatic arch, and it is formed by a thin layer of the osseous substance. Posteriorly it borders on the petrotympanic fissure, tympanic part of the temporal bone and external acoustic passage, anteriorly it borders on the articular tubercle, and laterally — on the crest of the zygomatic process of the temporal bone.

The articular disk divides the articular cavity into the upper and lower portions. The articular surface, upper and lower synovial septa are found in the articular capsule. Anteriorly the articular disk is attached to the portion of the future articular tubercle by means of the connective tissue taenia, and posteriorly — to the posterior wall of the articular capsule branching upwards and downwards. Inferiorly the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint is attached to the mandibular neck. Lateral ligament is attached to the articular capsule. Intracapsular ligaments are poorly differentiated at this period. The articular capsule is attached to the temporal bone anteriorly in the point of the articular tubercle and further along the perimeter of the mandibular fossa to the anterior border of the petrotympanic fissure. During the period of the 8-9th month of the intrauterine development the articular tubercle is more pronounced.

During the third trimester of the intrauterine development the head circumference (the line through the glabella, parietal tubercles and external occipital tubercle) is 291,83±28,07 mm; biparietal diameter (between the parietal tubercles) — 77,91±7,08 mm; cranial length (sagittal distance between glabella and external occipital tubercle) — 95,91±8,77 mm; facial breadth (transverse distance between the proximal points of the zygomatic arch) — 68,58±6,14 mm; facial height (distance between nasal point and the lowest point of the mandible) — 45,16±4,48 mm. In neonates the head circumference is 358,75±5,37 mm; biparietal diameter — 92,75±1,7 mm; cranial length — 117,25±2,75 mm; facial breadth — 87,5±3,1 mm; facial height — 52±0,816 mm. The parameters of craniometric examination of fetuses during the third trimester are presented in Table 1.

The majority of morphometric parameters in the dynamics of the third trimester increase evenly. More intensive increase can be detected concerning head circumference — on the 28th, 29th and 30th weeks; cranial length — on the 28th, 29th and 35th weeks; biparietal diameter — on the 30-31st and 35-36th weeks. The majority of craniometric parameters in neonates increase evenly. On the 38th week the head circumference increases more intensively.

During the third trimester the head circumference becomes 1.35 times as much, biparietal diameter — 1.32 times, cranial length — 1.36 times, facial breadth — 1.33 times, facial height — 1.34 times. In neonates the head circumference becomes 1.03 times as much, biparietal diameter — 1.04 times, cranial length — 1.05 times, facial breadth — 1.08 times, facial height — 1.03 times.

Average parameters of the mandible are presented in Table 2.

The majority of craniometric parameters of the mandible in the dynamics of the third trimester increase evenly (Figure). More intensively the following parameters increase: Bi-Co-distance — on the 25th, 29th, 35th and 36th weeks; Bi-Go-distance — on the 25-26th and 35-36th weeks; Go-Po-distance — on the 30th and 31st weeks. The majority of morphometric parameters of the mandible in neonates increase evenly. More intensively the following parameters increase: Bi-Co-distance — on the 38th week; Bi-Go-distance — on the 38th and 40th weeks; Go-Po-distance — on the 38th week.

Anterior-posterior size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint in 7-month fetuses is from 2,25 to 2,4 mm, in 8-month fetuses — from 2,55 to 2,8 mm, in 9-month fetuses — from 2,9 to 3 mm. In the dynamics of the third trimester the anterior-posterior size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint becomes 1.33 times as much.

In neonates the mandibular fossa is rather flat, it is 0,717±0,133 mm deep. On the surface of the mandibular fossa the osseous lamina is thickened a little compared to the previous terms of observation. The condylar process is covered with the cartilaginous tissue. The articular disk changes mainly along the way of consolidation. The middle part of the articular disk is thin; the anterior and posterior portions are thickened, and the posterior one is more thickened. The connective tissue taenia is attached to it passing fibrous strips
upwards to the posterior clivus of the mandibular fossa, and downwards – to the neck of the condylar process. Intracapsular bonds in neonates are poorly differentiated.

Average parameters of the anterior-posterior size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint in 7-month fetuses are 2.3375±0.06, in 8-month fetuses – 2.675±0.11, 9-month fetuses – 2.9375±0.047, and neonates – 3.5625±0.1493.

The size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint in the third trimester of the intrauterine development increases evenly. It becomes increasingly wider on the 26th, 31st, 32nd and 33rd weeks and neonates. The size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint in neonates increases evenly and is from 3.4 to 3.75 mm.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, months</th>
<th>Amount of specimens</th>
<th>Head circumference, mm</th>
<th>Biparietal diameter, mm</th>
<th>Cranial length, mm</th>
<th>Facial breadth, mm</th>
<th>Facial height, mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>240-288</td>
<td>68-72</td>
<td>80-92</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>38-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>295-301</td>
<td>75-80</td>
<td>94-99</td>
<td>66-70</td>
<td>44-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>303-325</td>
<td>81-90</td>
<td>100-109</td>
<td>71-80</td>
<td>49-51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neonates</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>352-365</td>
<td>91-95</td>
<td>114-120</td>
<td>84-91</td>
<td>51-53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age, months</th>
<th>Bi-Co distance, mm</th>
<th>Bi-Go distance, mm</th>
<th>Bi-M distance, mm</th>
<th>Height of the mandibular branch, mm</th>
<th>Mandibular body length, mm</th>
<th>Ce-M distance, mm</th>
<th>Go-Po distance, mm</th>
<th>Mandibular angle, grades</th>
<th>Mandibular sagittal length, mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>55,75±0,95</td>
<td>44,5±1,29</td>
<td>12,5±0,577</td>
<td>13,75±0,95</td>
<td>27±0,81</td>
<td>36,75±0,95</td>
<td>33,5±1,29</td>
<td>123,75±3,2</td>
<td>26,75±0,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>61±1,73</td>
<td>50,25±1,7</td>
<td>15±0,81</td>
<td>16±0,81</td>
<td>29,5±1,29</td>
<td>40±1,15</td>
<td>40,25±1,7</td>
<td>121±7,78</td>
<td>30±1,41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>70,75±5,12</td>
<td>60±4,76</td>
<td>18,25±0,95</td>
<td>18,25±0,95</td>
<td>34,25±2,21</td>
<td>44,75±2,75</td>
<td>44,5±1,29</td>
<td>134,5±6,24</td>
<td>32,25±0,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neonates</td>
<td>83±2,16</td>
<td>73±0,81</td>
<td>20,5±0,57</td>
<td>21,75±0,5</td>
<td>41,25±0,95</td>
<td>51,5±1,29</td>
<td>51,25±1,7</td>
<td>122,75±1,5</td>
<td>38±2,16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure.** Changes of craniometric parameters of the mandible in the dynamics of the third trimester of the intrauterine development
The correlation analysis of the morpho- and craniometric parameters depending on the anterior-posterior size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint determined that in the third trimester direct strong correlation bonds are found (r≥0,95): the anterior-posterior size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint – with the distance between the craniometric points "gonion" and "pogonion" (r=0.992), moderate correlation bonds – with the parameters of the head circumference (r=0.8632) and Bi-M distance (r=0.8612), and reverse correlation with the parameters of the mandibular angle (r= - 0.4802).

Direct strong correlation bonds (r≥0,95) of the anterior-posterior size of the articular capsule of the temporomandibular joint – with the parameters of Co-M distance (r=0.9943) and craniometric points "gonion" and "pogonion" (r=0.9641) were detected: moderate correlation bonds – with the parameters of the mandibular body (r=0.9035) and parameters of Bi-M distance (r=0.87); weak correlation bonds – with parameters of the mandibular angle (r=0.4372) and parameters of the mandibular branch height (r=0.4256).

Therefore, analysis of the results of our own studies demonstrates that in the third trimester of the intrauterine development topographic-anatomical interrelations of the temporomandibular joint develop rather dynamically and it occurs in close correlation with adjacent anatomical structures. The temporomandibular joint is characterized by a flat articular fossa and appearance of the articular tubercle at the 7-8th month of the intrauterine development in the form of prominence on the inferior surface of its condylar process base.

Conclusions. In neonates the temporomandibular joint becomes of a definite structure, is characterized by slightly concave articular fossa and pronounced articular tubercle. At the early neonatal period all the craniometric parameters increase which is indicative of enlargement of general osseous cranial mass, mandible and increasing the size of the temporomandibular joint.

Prospects of further studies. Identification of correlation bonds between cranio- and morphometric parameters of fetuses and neonates with the parameters of the temporomandibular joint depending on sex is considered to be reasonable. Further study of the temporomandibular joint will promote verification of the findings obtained by means of USD, CT, MRI, and will form the basis for detection of critical periods in the development of the facial part of the human cranium in fetuses.

References

ТОПОГРАФО-АНАТОМИЧНІ ОСОБЕННОСТІ ВИСЧО-НИЖЧЕЧЕЛЮСТНОГО СУСТАВА В ТРЕТЬЕМ ТРИМІСТРЕ ВНУТРІШТЮБНОГО РАЗВИТИЯ И НОВОРОЖДЕННЫХ

Резюме. Несмотря на определенный прогресс и интенсивное развитие стоматологических технологий, до сих пор существует множество невысеченных вопросов строения элементов зубочелюстной системы. Аномалии развития, включая нежелательное развитие сустава способствуют изменениям очертаний или развитию деформации лица, дегенерации или гипертрофии жевательных и мимических мышц, нарушают глотательные и жевательные движения, прикус или окклюзию. Исследование проведено на 19 препаратах плодов 301,0-450,0 мм теменно-пятюочной длины и 6 препаратах новорожденных методами морфометрии и краиометрии, макро- и микропрепарирования, компьютерной томографии и статистического анализа. Большинство морфометрических параметров в динамике третьего триместра растет равномерно. Интенсивнее увеличиваются окружность головы - на 28-й, 29-й и 30-й неделе; длина черепа - на 28-й, 29-й и 35-й неделе; биссептальный диаметр - на 30-31-й и 35-36-й неделе. Большинство краиометрических параметров у новорожденных увеличиваются равномерно. Несколько интенсивнее
The study was conducted on 19 samples of fetuses weighing 301.0–450.0 mm of the parietal-calcaneal length and 6 samples of neonates by means of the methods of morphometry and craniometry, macro- and micropreparation, computed tomography and statistical analysis. The majority of morphometric parameters in the dynamics of the third trimester increase evenly. More intense increase can be detected concerning head circumference – on the 28th, 29th and 30th weeks; cranial length – on the 28th, 29th and 35th weeks; biparietal diameter – on the 30–31st and 35–36th weeks. The majority of craniometric parameters in neonates increase evenly. On the 38th week the head circumference increases more intensively. In neonates the temporomandibular joint becomes of a definite structure, is characterized by slightly concave articular fossa and pronounced articular tubercle. At the early neonatal period all the craniometric parameters increase which is indicative of enlargement of general osseous cranial mass, mandible and increasing the size of the temporomandibular joint. Further study of the temporomandibular joint will promote verification of the findings obtained by means of USD, CT, MRI, and will form the basis for detection of critical periods in the development of the facial part of the human cranium in fetuses.

Key words: temporomandibular joint, third trimester, neonates, anatomy.

Abstract. In spite of a certain progress and intensive development of dental technologies there are a number of unsolved issues concerning the dentoalveolar system structures. A considerable number of publications in scientific literature dealing with various aspects of dental anatomy still do not sufficiently study age anatomy and morphological preconditions promoting occurrence of temporomandibular joint pathology, irrespective of their important practical value. The study was conducted on 19 samples of fetuses weighing 301.0–450.0 mm of the parietal-calcaneal length and 6 samples of neonates by means of the methods of morphometry and craniometry, macro- and micropreparation, computed tomography and statistical analysis. The majority of morphometric parameters in the dynamics of the third trimester increase evenly. More intense increase can be detected concerning head circumference – on the 28th, 29th and 30th weeks; cranial length – on the 28th, 29th and 35th weeks; biparietal diameter – on the 30–31st and 35–36th weeks. The majority of craniometric parameters in neonates increase evenly. On the 38th week the head circumference increases more intensively. In neonates the temporomandibular joint becomes of a definite structure, is characterized by slightly concave articular fossa and pronounced articular tubercle. At the early neonatal period all the craniometric parameters increase which is indicative of enlargement of general osseous cranial mass, mandible and increasing the size of the temporomandibular joint. Further study of the temporomandibular joint will promote verification of the findings obtained by means of USD, CT, MRI, and will form the basis for detection of critical periods in the development of the facial part of the human cranium in fetuses.

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