

Temporomandibular joint - structure, movements

The temporomandibular joint connects the skull and the mandible together. This joint allows for important movements to be made by the jaw.

Overview

- The upper part of the joint allows the head of the mandible to protrude onto the articular tubercle and retract back into the mandibular fossa
- It is a condyloid synovial joint
- The joint allows the jaw to open to more than 15°

Ligaments: sphenomandibular, stylomandibular and lateral ligaments

Movements

- **Depression** by digastric, geniohyoid and mylohyoid muscles
- **Elevation** by temporalis, masseter and medial pterygoid muscles
- **Protrusion** by lateral and medial pterygoid muscles
- **Retraction** by temporalis, masseter, digastric and geniohyoid muscles

Links

Bibliography

SNELL, Richard S. *Clinical Anatomy by Regions*. 8th Edition edition. 2004. ISBN 978-0-7817-6404-9.