

## Jaw Pain Self-Management Keys

If you have jaw pain, here are several tips that you can incorporate on a daily basis to help relieve and resolve your pain:

- When not eating, your teeth should always be apart, tongue pressed gently to the roof of your mouth
- Eating:
  - Avoid foods that are uncomfortable to eat (tough/chewy meat, hard or chewy candy, chewing gum, pizza crust, chewy bagels, etc.)
  - Cut food into small, bite-size pieces
  - Avoid hurried meals
- Eliminate:
  - Biting fingernails
  - Chewing the tongue and/or cheeks
- Neck pain is present in 60-70% of people with jaw pain: frequent gentle movement of your neck can help (rolling your head, looking over both shoulders, looking up and down)
- Consider ergonomics at work and home (see back of sheet)
- Sleeping:
  - Avoid sleeping on your stomach
  - Make sure your pillow contours to your head and neck without gaps (see back of sheet)
    - Roll a towel and place within your pillowcase to fill any gaps
- Perform regular stress relief activities such as deep breathing and meditation (we recommend finding a free to use phone app such as Insight Timer)





