Defensive Jaw Complex

The **Third Neurological Unit** begins with the Defensive Jaw (DJC) or the Fight part of Flight/Fight survival mechanism. The DJC essentially is the dural defense reaction involving the locking of cranial sutures and traction activity of flexion of the sacro-coccygeal junction. This activity is often referenced as Dural Defense which facillates the protection of the brain and spinal cord / nerve roots.

Note: The DJC is comprised of the two parts (TMJ and Coccyx) and three subcomponents:
1. Head neutral - release TMJ
2. Head rotation - release TMJ
3. Head rotation with pelvic rotation - release TMJ

Screening: Using gluteus medius (left) to access TMJ program, patient using right hand therapy localizes right jaw (masseter muscle). Positive therapy localization verifies a DJC neurological deficit is present. The test is repeated with head turned right to verify subcomponent #2. Add pelvic rotation to verify subcomponent #3.

If there was no active cranial injury component (CIC), then DJC will be absent. If CIC is present then the minimal presentation will be subcomponent #1. If CIC is present with bilateral Ocular reflexes then subcomponent #2 will be present. If a pelvic injury (bilateral cloacals active in gait correction), was seen then subcomponent #3 will be present. There is no harm in doing all three components.

I. **Defensive Jaw correction:** Head neutral

- Spindle down right masseter muscle – right temporalis muscle then across to opposite lateral pterygoid muscle. Repeat the same procedure starting from left masseter muscle.
- Head Rotation: Repeat above procedure.
- Head Rotation with Pelvic Rotation: Repeat above procedure.

II. **Coccygeal Release correction**:
- Patient maintains bilateral TMJ contact while pumping pressure is applied to coccyx by pushing coccyx towards pubic bone on exaggerated expiration or inspiration (exaggerated activity is required for ~ 5 respirations).
- Head Rotation: Repeat above procedure.
- Head Rotation with Pelvic Rotation: Repeat above procedure.

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