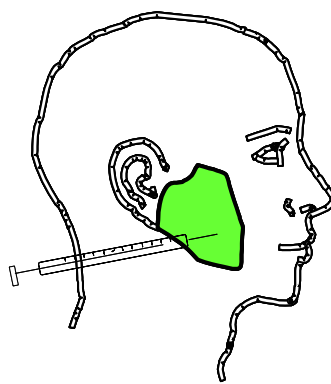
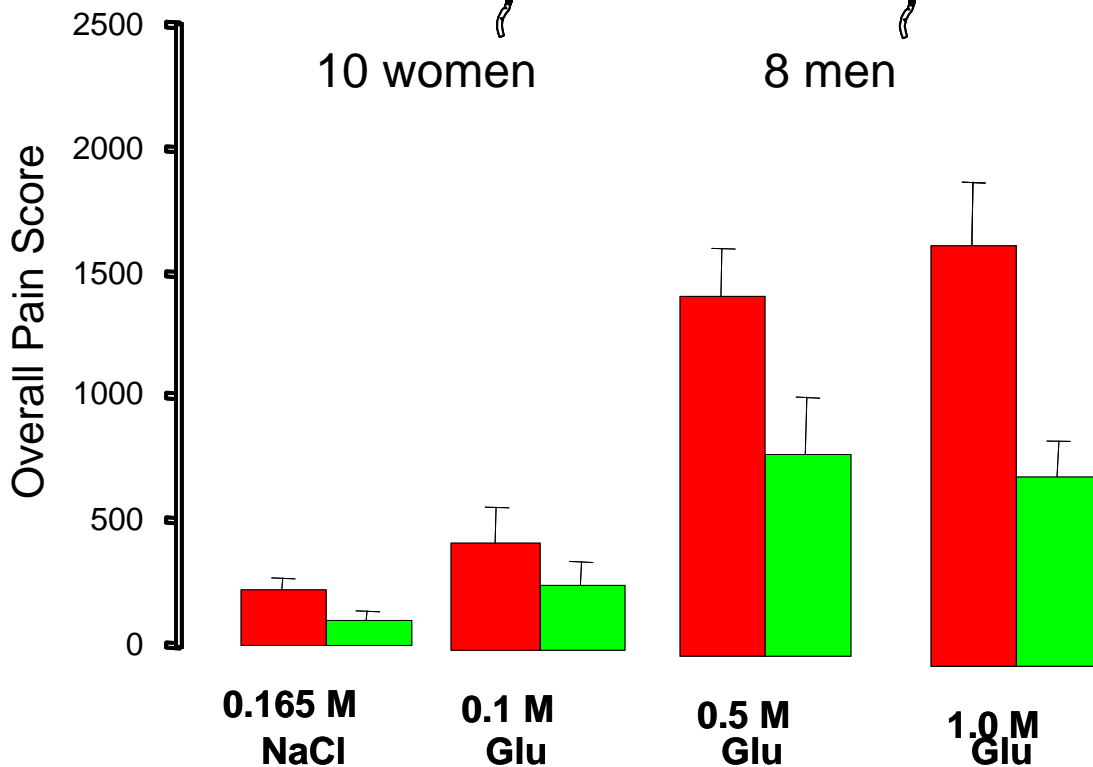


10 women



8 men



Injection of glutamate (Glu) into the jaw-closer muscle of healthy humans is an experimental model of Temporomandibular disorders (TMD) pain; a condition far more likely to affect women than men. These injections result in a concentration-related increase in pain area (above) and overall muscle pain (below) which is significantly greater in healthy women than in healthy men. Subsequent research suggests that this sex-related difference is due to a greater expression of receptors for glutamate by nerve fibers that innervate the jaw-closer muscle in women. (Adapted from Svensson et al, Pain. 2003;101:221-227)