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STRESS WORSENS BITE ON EXECS

Tooth grinding is on the rise among Wall Street executives, according to Dr. **Ramin Tabib**, a Manhattan-based dentist who counts many CEOs among his patients.

The condition, also known as bruxism, has become particularly widespread among Dr. Tabib's clients in the wake of Sept. 11. Prior to the economic slowdown he had five to 10 cases a month, and the number had been steadily climbing to about 15 a month over the past year.

Since the attack, he's had about 25 people in his dentist's chair complaining of sore jaws, sleeplessness and headaches. Several patients who were in the World Trade Center at the time of the attack have cracked teeth and jaw pain.

Many executives are neglecting their emotional needs during the day and are relieving built-up stress through tooth grinding at night, the dentist says. The disorder can be treated with mouth guards, dental work and stress counseling.