**Role of the teeth arrangement in the mastication:**

Normally the teeth are arranged in each jaw to form arched curve without projection inwards or outward of the individual teeth the upper arch form elliptical shape while the lower is parabolic. When the two jaws are closed to each other that the masticatory surface fit together this known occlusion. Each tooth is occluded except the upper third molar.

**Physiology of muscles of mastication:**

**The action of the muscles of the mastication:**

The muscles of mastication are four pairs of muscles attached to the mandible and are responsible for the movement of the jaws which are as following:

**1. Mandibular protrusion:**

lateral pterygoid muscles acting together producing mandibular protrusion.

**2. Mandibular retrusion:**

The posterior and horizontal fibers of the temporalis muscle as well as the digastrics muscles will accomplish retrusion of the mandible.

**3. Lateral excursion of the mandible:**

When the left lateral pterygoid muscle contract the left condyle will be pulled forward and then the mandible will move to the right. When the right muscle contracts the mandible will move in the opposite direction.

**4. Elevation of the mandible:**

The medial pterygoid muscle and the masseter and temporalis muscle accomplish the elevation.

**5. Depression of the mandible:**

is accomplished by the hyoid muscles which are includes the supra hyoid and infra hyoid muscles.

