Anatomy of Clicking TMJ and Locking TMJ

Figure 1 shows the elastic ligament and muscle that attach to either side of the condyle around the temporomandibular joint (TMJ).

The elastic ligament can be found just below and to the side of the ear canal, connecting the articular disc on one side, while muscle connects on the other side. The mandibular condyle fits between the ligament and muscle, just below the articular disc.

In TMJ, clicking can be heard when the mandibular condyle snaps between the ligament and articular disc.

Locking TMJ occurs when the mandibular condyle gets trapped between the ligament and articular disc.
Figure 1