

Diagnostic Questions

Here at OHSU's Department of Neurological Surgery we have developed a helpful questionnaire for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from various types of trigeminal neuralgia.

1) Do you have facial pain?

YES NO

2) Do you remember exactly where you were the moment your facial pain started?

YES NO

3) When you have pain, is it predominantly in your face (i.e., forehead, eye, cheek, nose, upper/lower jaw, teeth, lips, etc.)?

YES NO

4) Do you have pain just on one side of your face?

YES NO

5) When you have pain, is it predominantly deep in your ear?

YES NO

6) When you have pain, is it predominantly in the back of your throat or tongue, near the area of your tonsil?

YES NO

7) Is your pain either entirely or mostly brief (seconds to minutes) and unpredictable sensations (electrical, shocking, stabbing, shooting)?

YES NO

8) Do you have any constant background facial pain (e.g., aching, burning, throbbing, stinging)?

YES NO

9) Do you have constant background facial pain (aching, burning, throbbing, stinging) for more than half of your waking hours?

YES NO

10) Do you have any constant facial numbness?

YES NO

11) Can your pain start by something touching your face (for example, by eating, washing your face, shaving, brushing teeth, wind)?

YES NO

12) Since your pain began have you ever experienced periods of weeks, months, or years, when you were pain-free? (This would not include periods after any pain-relieving surgery or while you were on medications for your pain.)

YES NO

13) Have you ever taken Tegretol ® (carbamazepine), Neurontin ® (gabapentin), Lioresal ® (baclofen), Treleptal ® (oxcarbazepine), Topamax ® (topiramate), Zonegran ® (zonisamide), or any other anticonvulsant medication for your pain?

YES NO

14) Did you ever experience any major reduction in facial pain (partial or complete) from taking any of the medications listed in Question 13, or any anticonvulsant medication?

YES NO

15) Have you ever had trigeminal nerve surgery for your pain? (e.g., neurectomy, RF rhizotomy/gangliolysis, glycerol injection, balloon compression, rhizotomy, MVD, gamma knife)

YES NO

16) Have you ever experienced any major reduction in facial pain (partial or complete) from trigeminal nerve surgery for your pain? (e.g., neurectomy, RF rhizotomy/gangliolysis, glycerol injection, balloon compression, rhizotomy, MVD, gamma knife)

YES NO

17) Did your current pain start only after trigeminal nerve surgery (neurectomy, RF rhizotomy/gangliolysis, glycerol injection, balloon compression, rhizotomy, MVD, gamma knife)? (If this is a recurrence of your original pain after a successful trigeminal nerve surgery, answer "no")

YES NO

18) Did your pain start after facial zoster or "shingles" rash (Herpes zoster - not to be confused with "fever blisters" around the mouth)?

YES NO

19) Do you have multiple sclerosis?

YES NO

20) Did your pain start after a facial injury?

YES NO

21) Did your pain start only after facial surgery (oral surgery, ENT surgery, plastic surgery)?

YES NO

22) When you place your index finger right in front of your ears on both sides at once and feel your jaw open and close; is this where you predominantly feel pain?

YES NO