Trigeminal neuralgia

Gamma Knife radiosurgery is one of the most recent and least invasive neurosurgical treatment for trigeminal neuralgia.

What is trigeminal neuralgia?

Trigeminal neuralgia is a disorder of one or both of the facial nerves.

What are the symptoms of trigeminal neuralgia?

Symptoms are episodes of intense pain normally on one side of the face. The pain is often triggered by sensory stimuli such as touching the skin of the face, eating or brushing teeth. In the majority of cases the cause remains unknown. It is, however, commonly believed that injury to the trigeminal nerve root caused by pressure from a pulsating blood vessel is the cause in most cases. It also, but rarely, occurs as a complication to multiple sclerosis. A benign tumour is also a rare cause.

How is trigeminal neuralgia treated?

The diagnosis is normally made based on the characteristic occurrence of secondary trigeminal neuralgia.

How is trigeminal neuralgia treated?

The first line of treatment is drug therapy available. There are numerous surgical procedures intended to move the blood vessel(s) away from the root of the nerve or general anesthetic.

Other procedures such as glycerol injections into the opening of the nerve root or general anaesthesia.

Gamma Knife surgery is becoming increasingly popular, and has been in frequent use only during the last decade. The short-term results reported prove to be successful.

For more information on pre- and post-treatment for trigeminal neuralgia with Gamma Knife, see the related downloads section below.

Further information on trigeminal neuralgia

Please contact the Gamma Knife Centre directly or go to The Trigeminal Neuralgia Association.

For health professionals

If you would like more information on the clinical applications of Gamma Knife treatment for trigeminal neuralgia, please see Professor Lippits's website.
Call the Contact Centre on +44 (0)20 7460 5700

We can take your call between 8am-8pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am-2pm Saturdays.

Let us call you back
Arrange for us to call you back at a more convenient time to discuss your needs.

Email the Contact Centre
Send us an email enquiry and we will get back to you.