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 of multiple sclerosis. A benign tumour is also a rare causative factor.

How is trigeminal neuralgia diagnosed?
The diagnosis is normally made based on the patient's history and physical examination, but MRI may be used to rule out other causes.

How is trigeminal neuralgia treated?
The first line of treatment is drug therapy. There are numerous surgical procedures which are intended to move the blood vessel to relieve pressure on the nerve. Other procedures such as percutaneous balloon compression of the nerve or percutaneous laser coagulation of the nerve have been developed and have been in frequent use only during the last few years. The short-term results reported have proved to be very effective.

For more information on pre- and post treatment care, please see our Gamma Knife surgery 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.
Related documents:
- Gamma Knife - trigeminal neuralgia pre-treatment [pdf / 258KB]
- Gamma Knife - trigeminal neuralgia post-treatment [pdf / 309KB]

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.

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