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Trigeminal Neuralgia

Also called: Tic douloureux, TN

Trigeminal neuralgia (TN) is a type of chronic pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/pain.html>] that affects your face. It causes extreme, sudden burning or shock-like pain. It usually affects one side of the face. Any vibration on your face, even from talking, can set it off. The condition may come and go, disappearing for days or even months. But the longer you have it, the less often it goes away.

TN usually affects people over 50, especially women. The cause is probably a blood vessel pressing on the trigeminal nerve, one of the largest nerves in the head. Tumors and multiple sclerosis can also cause TN, but in some cases the cause is unknown.

There is no single test to diagnose TN. It can be hard to diagnose, since many other conditions can cause facial pain. Treatment options include medicines, surgery, and complementary techniques.

NIH: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Resources

- **Fact Sheet: Trigeminal Neuralgia** [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Trigeminal-Neuralgia-Fact-Sheet>]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also in Spanish [https://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/neuralgia_del_trigemino.htm]
- **Trigeminal Neuralgia** [<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/trigeminal-neuralgia/basics/definition/CON-20043802?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Clinical Trials

- **ClinicalTrials.gov: Trigeminal Neuralgia**
[<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Trigeminal+Neuralgia%22>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- **Article: Botulinum neurotoxin type A for the treatment of pain: not...**
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28324318>]
- **Article: Praise for an Obituary.** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28267859>]
- **Article: Safety and efficacy of a Nav1.7 selective sodium channel blocker...**
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28216232>]

- Trigeminal Neuralgia -- see more articles [[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=trigeminal+neuralgia\[majr\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+AND+english\[la\]+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=trigeminal+neuralgia[majr]+AND+humans[mh]+AND+english[la]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat])]

Patient Handouts

- Stereotactic radiosurgery - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000131.htm>]
- Trigeminal neuralgia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000742.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000742.htm>]



National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Trigeminal Neuralgia* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>]

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