

# Facial Pain

## Primary Causes of Pain

- Dentine sensitivity
- pulpitis
- periapical periodontitis
- abscess
- neuralgias

## Neuralgias

### ▪ Trigeminal neuralgia

Sharp stabbing episodic electric shock like pain; lasts a few sec

Trigger zone - stimulated by washing face/shaving etc.

Treated with carbamazepine 100mg 2x per day. Local anesthetic, injected to trigger zone can relieve pain temporarily

### ▪ Glossopharyngeal neuralgia

Posterolateral tongue and ear of affected side

stimuli : eating, drinking, speaking

### ▪ Preherpetic neuralgia

Aching, burning pain, limited to distribution of trigeminal nerve

Treated with high dose acyclovir

### ▪ Postherpetic neuralgia

Unpleasant burning pain.

Blockade of stellate ganglion with bupivacaine (local anesthetic) (short term relief)

## Pain of Vascular Origin

### ▪ migraine

Intense persisting aching pain, unilateral

Stimuli : food, alcohol, stress, hormones.

We give painkillers.

### ▪ Cluster headache

Intense aching pain that disturbs sleep, nasal congestion.

Stimuli : alcohol, vasodilators, high altitude.

Treat with ergotamine or sumatriptan.

### ▪ Giant cell Arteritis

Throbbing headache, unilateral, fever, malaise, weight loss

Treated with high dose prednisolone.

## Atypical Orofacial Pain

Gripping, vice like aching pain, feeling of pressure

## Links

## Related Articles

## Bibliography