

TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA

Please note this is our provisional diagnosis which must be confirmed by tests. If you have any questions, particularly about the treatment or potential side-effects, please ask Professor.

- This is an uncommon disorder
- The cause is unknown but involves spontaneous activity of pain nerves
- It is not inherited
- It is not known to be infectious
- Similar symptoms may be seen in some neurological conditions
- X-rays, scans and/or blood tests may therefore be required
- There are usually no long-term consequences
- Symptoms may be controlled but not cured by drugs with an anticonvulsant action, typically *Tegretol*
- Uncontrolled pain may be treated by freezing the nerve, or surgery
- Useful websites <http://www.painfoundation.org/>
<http://www.tna-support.org/>

A patient has the right under common law to give or withhold consent to medical examination or treatment. This is one of the basic principles of health care. Patients are entitled to receive sufficient information in a way they can understand about the proposed treatments, the possible alternatives and any substantial risk or risks which may be special in kind or magnitude or special to the patient, so that they can make a balanced judgement. (UK Health Dept. 19.2.99. HSC 1999/031)

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