Trigeminal Neuralgia and Giant Cell Arteritis

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Trigeminal Neuralgia is a chronic pain condition. It directly affects the trigeminal nerve and carries sensation from one’s face to their brain. It can be triggered by the mildest of stimulations on one’s face and trigger the jolts of excruciating pain. It results in facial pain, headaches, fever, joint pain, and difficulties with vision (Cruccu et al., 2016). On the other hand, Giant Cell Arteritis is a type of arteritis. It is rather common among adults over the age of 60. It can sometimes also result in headaches, facial pain, joint pain, fever and loss of vision in one or both eyes (Levin, 2002).

Excruciating pain is the common denominator in both illnesses. With regard to Giant Cell Arteritis, it is important to diagnose and treat the patient suffering from the disease in the early stages so the probable loss of sight, as a result of inflammation of ophthalmic arteries can be reduced. The pain is usually triggered by chewing mechanism, with the pain being indicative of the disease. The diagnosis for giant cell arteritis can be carried through temporal artery biopsy if no other neurological disease is found.

On the other hand, Trigeminal Neuralgia is further divided into three categories. The first is idiopathic, where a patient suffers through the pain without any apparent cause. Furthermore, a common cause of the pain stem from the trigeminal nerve. Upon vascular compression, it produces the sensation of searing pain in the patient. The third is secondary trigeminal neuralgia, which results on the basis of paroxysmal pain. Trigeminal Neuralgia can only be properly diagnosed on the basis of the pathognomonic pain attacks the patient suffers through. It can occur as a result of the normal facial stimulus, coupled with some external stimulus. The pain usually affects just one side of the face and lasts for only a few seconds at the time.

In a nutshell, both diseases produce a sensation of excruciating pain, but the mode, frequency, intensity and even the origin of pain varies in both sources.

# References

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