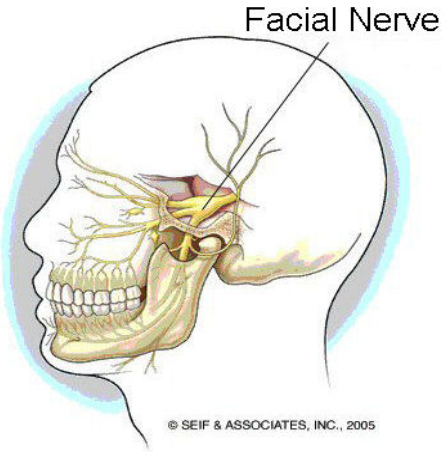
Trigeminal Neuralgia

Trigeminal neuralgia is a nerve disorder that causes sudden attacks of severe facial pain. It is caused by damage to the trigeminal nerve, a major nerve in the face. It is more common in women and in the elderly, although it can also happen in younger patients. Attacks last from a few seconds to several minutes and can occur from a couple of times per year to several times per day. Trigeminal neuralgia can be a very distressing and disabling condition. Surgery may be needed in very severe cases if medical treatment does not give relief.



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- If your caregiver prescribed medication to help prevent attacks, take as directed.
- To help prevent attacks:
  - Chew on the unaffected side of the mouth.
  - Avoid touching your face.
  - Avoid blasts of hot or cold air.
  - Men may wish to grow a beard to avoid having to shave.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION IF:

- Pain is unbearable and your medicine does not help.
- You develop new, unexplained *symptoms* (problems).
- You have problems that may be related to a medication you are taking.

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