Understanding Facial Pain in MS

More than half of people living with MS suffer from chronic pain. Trigeminal neuralgia (TN) is facial pain that is associated with irritation or damage to the trigeminal nerve. TN is one of the most common pain syndromes in people with MS.

Did you know?

- TN occurs most often in people over age 50.
- TN is more common in women than men.
- Researchers in Iran recently found the prevalence of TN among people with MS is higher than the general population.
- A 2017 study suggests that TN may be an early symptom of MS.

Managing TN

Avoid triggers (i.e. shaving, applying makeup).

Take medications.

Ask about surgical options.

Try alternative medicine.

It's important to diagnose MS as early as possible, so that treatment can begin and, ideally, prevent the progression of neurological damage and disability. The McDonald criteria are measures aimed at helping doctors diagnose MS quickly and accurately. Click here to learn more!