

Brain: Miscellaneous

Trigeminal Neuralgia

Trigeminal neuralgia, also called tic douloureux, is a syndrome of severe facial pain. It is caused by compression of the trigeminal nerve (the sensory nerve to the face) by an artery or vein (usually artery) at the nerve entry zone of the brainstem. Trigeminal neuralgia can also be seen in diseases that affect the brainstem, particularly multiple sclerosis. Most cases of trigeminal neuralgia are treated with medications. However when this fails surgery can be performed. Operations for trigeminal neuralgia include microvascular decompression, radiofrequency lesioning, glycerol rhizotomy and balloon compression.