

# Medical Update Memo

October 20, 2009

## Two reports for Management of Trigeminal Neuralgia in Multiple Sclerosis

### Summary

Trigeminal neuralgia (TN, a severe and disabling pain disorder) can appear in people with MS in a higher percentage than in the general population. Pharmaceutical treatment for this is not always satisfactory, and surgical treatment carries the potential for local adverse events derived from the physical disruption of the affected nerve.

### Details

#### Gamma knife radiosurgery for multiple sclerosis-related trigeminal neuralgia

The authors aimed to evaluate the long term outcome of 37 people with MS with TN who received a specific surgical treatment called gamma knife. Because of the reasonable pain control and the low morbidity associated with the treatment, the authors suggest that gamma knife could be a therapeutic option for MS-related trigeminal neuralgia. *Neurology*. 2009 Oct 6;73(14):1149-54

#### Hypothalamic stimulation for trigeminal neuralgia in multiple sclerosis patients: efficacy on the paroxysmal ophthalmic pain

In a study of people with MS-related trigeminal neuralgia (TN), the authors aimed to evaluate the efficacy of a specific treatment for TN called hypothalamic stimulation (HS). Although this is a small study with only five people, the authors found that the HS was effective for people that have TN in the first branch (i.e. ophthalmic branch) of the trigeminal nerve. Therefore, they conclude that HS should be considered as a therapeutic option especially for those with an ophthalmic branch TN, taking into account that the local adverse events occurring after surgery may be especially serious when the first branch is involved. *Mult Scler*. 2009 Oct 7.

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