

Patients who experience pain distributed in the trigeminal nerve may have the typical symptoms of [trigeminal neuralgia](#) TGN. The following concepts and observations should be remembered in assessing and treating these patients:

Recognize patients with neuroma Patients who experience facial pain after trauma or facial surgery may harbor a neuroma. These patients usually describe constant, dull, and burning pain along the distribution of a branch of the trigeminal nerve. A Tinelâs sign and temporary relief with a lidocaine block can establish the diagnosis. These patients can improve after peripheral neurectomy.

Treatment of patients with dysesthesia Dysesthesia (troublesome numbness) that develops after percutaneous destructive procedures is usually mild and temporary. There is no good treatment for patients with persistent dysesthesia. Destructive procedures are not recommended because they usually worsen the symptoms. MVD has generally not been successful. Techniques such as trigeminal stimulation, motor cortex stimulation, caudalis DREZ surgery, and PSR nucleotomy-tractotomy require further evaluation.

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