Version 1.0

23 April 2013

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Wikipedia wrote that Neuralgia is <u>pain</u> in one or more nerves caused by a change in neurological structure or function of the nerves. Neuralgia falls into two categories: central neuralgia, where the cause of the pain is located in the spinal cord or <u>brain</u>, and peripheral neuralgia. This unusual pain is thought to be linked to four possible mechanisms: ion channel gate malfunctions; the nerve fibers become mechanically sensitive and create an ectopic signal; signals in touch fibers cross to pain fibers; and malfunction due to damage in the brain and spinal cord.

Neuralgia is often difficult to diagnose, and most treatments show little or no effectiveness. (caused by <u>shingles</u> or <u>herpes</u>). The term neuralgia is also used to refer to pain associated with sciatica and brachial plexopathy.[3]

The disorder generally causes short episodes of excruciating <u>pain</u>, usually for less than two minutes and usually only one side of the face. The pain can be described in a variety of ways such as "stabbing," "sharp," "like lightning," "burning," and even "itchy". In the atypical form of TN, the pain presents itself as severe constant aching along the nerve. The pain associated with TN is recognized as one of the most excruciating pains that can be experienced.[3]

Simple stimuli—such as eating, talking, making facial expressions, washing the face, or any light touch or sensation—can trigger an attack (even the sensation of a cool breeze). Attacks may be lone occurrences, clusters of attacks, , or constant episodes. Some patients experience <u>muscle spasm</u>, which led to the original term for TN of "tic douloureux" ("tic", meaning 'spasm', and "douloureux", meaning 'painful', in <u>French</u>).

Neuralgia is a form of <u>chronic pain</u> that can be difficult to diagnose. Postherpetic neuralgia is the easiest to diagnose because it follows an obvious cause (shingles). Neuralgia is a rare disease. Women are more likely to be affected than men. In some cases, <u>multiple sclerosis</u> is related to nerve damage, causing the pain, so doctors will likely ask about family history to help diagnose. Nothing unusual can be seen in brain scans, so diagnosis is usually based on the description of the symptoms and the response to the medication or procedures.[4]

The symptoms can be mistaken for <u>migraines</u>, dental problems, aching teeth, ear aches, feeling of fullness in sinuses, cheek pain, pain in forehead and temples, jaw pain, pain around eyes, and occasional electric shock-like stabs. Unlike typical neuralgia, this form can also cause pain in the back of the scalp and neck. Pain tends to worsen with talking, facial expressions, chewing, and certain sensations such as a cool breeze.

I had a little rising up the left of my face with very slight pain in April 2013. I was tired and bad back muscle pains from damaged back muscles.