

Incidence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia In A University Hospital Setting - A Retrospective Analysis

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Abstract

Classic Trigeminal Neuralgia (Tn) Is One Of The Most Painful Disorders Of The Orofacial Region. It Can Be Described As Recurrent And Abrupt Electric Shock Like Pains. Tn Affects One Or More Branches Of The Trigeminal Nerve, Mostly Second Or Third Division. It Is Usually Unilateral In Occurrence And Seen More Frequently In Older Populations. The Present Study Aims To Determine The Incidence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia (Tn) Among The Patients Of Saveetha Dental College And Hospitals. This Study Is A Retrospective Study Conducted In A University Hospital Setting. The Study Population Consists Of 24 Patients With Orofacial Neuralgia Who Had Reported To The Department Of Oral Medicine And Radiology, Saveetha Dental College And Hospitals, Chennai, India. The Data Regarding The Age, Gender, Orofacial Neuralgia And Clinical Presentation Of The Patients Were Retrieved From Patients Records And Analysed .The Data With A Total 86000 Patients Records Between June2019 To March 2020 Were Taken And After Fulfillment Of Inclusion And Exclusion Criteria, A Final Sample Of 24 Patients Were Considered. The Data Were Tabulated And Analysed By Spss Software And Statistics Done Using Chi Square Test With Significance Kept At $P < 0.05$. The Incidence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia Was Found To Be 83.3% Whereas The Incidence Of Other Orofacial Neuralgia Was Found To Be 16.7%. The Majority Of The Study Population Was In The Age Group Of 41-70 Years. Males (54.1%) Dominated The Study Population Than Females (45.8%). The Study Showed That Trigeminal Neuralgia Was More Prevalent In Males (45.8%) And Females (37.5%) And Was Also Found More Prevalent Over 55 Years Of Age (45.8%) .

Keywords: Trigeminal Neuralgia, Orofacial Neuralgia, Prevalence

1.Introduction

Trigeminal Neuralgia, Is A Chronic Pain Affecting The Trigeminal Nerve. Burchiel KJ Defined Trigeminal Neuropathic Pain As Constant Unilateral Facial Pain That Varies In Intensity, Is Triggerable, And Not Curable ¹. This Is Characterized By Episodes Of Unilateral, Lancing, Shock- Like Pains And Are Also Intermixed With Pain Free

Episodes. It Is Also Described As A Chronic Debilitating Condition Resulting In Brief And Intense Episodes Of Facial Pain In The Distribution Of One Or More Branches Of The Fifth Cranial Nerve². The Episodes Of Facial Pain Are Sporadic, Sudden, And Often Like Electric Shocks Lasting From A Few Seconds To Several Minutes. Trigeminal Neuralgia Is Also Called As Tic Douloureux³. Idiopathic Or Secondary To Intracranial Lesions Such As Tumor, Infection And Multiple Sclerosis Can Be The Etiology Of Trigeminal Neuralgia, Among Neuropathic Pain, Trigeminal Neuralgia As A Peculiar Profile Although A Benign Disorder. It Can Have A Major Impact On The Quality Of Life And Even Gets Refractory To Various Treatment Modalities After Some Time.⁴

Trigeminal Neuralgia Affects Only One Side Of The Face And The Right Side Is Affected More Frequently Than The Left Side. It Is A Rare Nerve Disorder Having Limited Statistical Data⁵. The Estimated Annual Incidence Of Tn Is 12.6/100,00 Persons/ Year And Its Incidence Increases With Age. Although The Peak Concept Of Tn Occurs Between 50 And 70 Years ,It Can Also Occur In Children.⁶

Classical Trigeminal Neuralgia Is Often Caused By Microvascular Compression At The Terminal Root Entry Zone Of The Brain Stem And Symptomatic Tn Is Caused By A Structural Lesion Other Than Vascular Compression^{7,8}. Persistent Idiopathic Facial Pain Previously Termed As Atypical Pain Is A Persistent, Dull, Poorly, Localizable, Facial Pain Without Sensory Or Other Neurological Deficits Which Cannot Be Attributed To Different Disorder^{9,10}. Therefore, Investigations Such As X-Ray Of Face And Jaws, Cranial Computed Tomography Or Magnetic Resonance Imaging Are Necessary To Exclude Any Relevant Abnormality¹¹. Tn Is Sometimes Misdiagnosed Due To Non Availability Of The Clear Physical Laboratory Diagnosis, And Many Times, Patients Seek The Help Of Numerous Clinicians Before A Confirmed Diagnosis Is Made¹². Previously Our Team Has A Rich Experience In Working On Various Research Projects Across Multiple Disciplines The¹³⁻¹⁵¹⁶⁻²⁷. Hence, The Aim Of The Study Is To Assess The Incidence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia In The Patients Of Saveetha Dental College And Hospitals.

2. Materials And Methods

Study Setting And Sampling : This Study Is A Single- Centre Retrospective Study, Carried Out In The Oral Medicine And Radiology Department In A Private Dental College. The Present Study Was Approved By The Ethical Board Of The Institution – Institutional Ethical Committee [Iec](Ethical Approval Number: Sdc/Sihhec/2020/Diasdata/0619-0320) And Was In Accordance With The Ethical Standards That Were Stipulated. All Available Records Of Patients With Orofacial Neuralgia From June 2019 – April 2020, Were Examined And Included In Our Data Collection. A Total Of 86000 Case Sheets Were Reviewed. Cross Verification Of Data For Error Was Done By Presence Of Additional Reviewers And By Photographs Evaluation. Two Examiners Were Involved In The Study.

Data Collection- Acquisition Of Data Was Done From The Hospital Digital Database Which Records All Patient Details. The Collected Data Were Grouped Based On The Orofacial Neuralgia. Gender Was Categorised Into Males And Females. Age Was Categorised Into 18 - 35 Years, 36 - 55 Years And > 55 Years. The Data Were Entered In The System In A Methodical Manner. For This Study, Data On The Number Of Patients With Orofacial Neuralgias And Clinical Variables Such As Their Age And Gender Were Collected. The Data Was Then Entered In Excel Manually And Imported To Spss For Analysis. Incomplete Or Censored Data Were Excluded From The Study.

Statistical Analysis - The Statistical Analysis Was Done Using Spss Software (Spss Version 21.0, Spss, Chicago Il, Usa). Descriptive Statistics Were Used To Summarise The Demographic Information Of The Patients Included In This Study. Descriptive Statistics Is Used For The Acquisition Of Frequency Distribution Of The Data. Chi Square Test Was Applied And Statistical Significance Was Kept At $P < 0.05$.

3.Results And Discussion

The Study Population Consists Of 24 Patients Aged Between 18 - > 55 Years. Majority Of The Study Population Were Over 50 Years Of Age (%). Males (54.1%) Dominated The Study Population Than Females (45.8%).

Based On The Distribution Of Study Population By Age , 58.3% Of The Patients Were Found Over 55 Years Of Age ;33.3% Of The Patients Were Found Within The Age Group Of 36 - 55 Years And 8.3% Of The Patients Were Found Within The Age Group Of 18 - 35 Years (Figure 1). Based On The Distribution Of Study Population By Gender , 54.1% Of The Patients Were Found To Be Males And 45.8% Of The Patients Were Found To Be Females (Figure 2). Based On The Prevalence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia, 83.3% Of The Patients Were Found To Have Trigeminal Neuralgia And 16.6% Of The Patients Were Found To Have Other Orofacial Neuralgias (Figure 3).

The Association Between The Age Involved And The Orofacial Neuralgia Has Been Evaluated And It Was Found That 45.8% Of The Patients With Trigeminal Neuralgia Were Over 55 Years Of Age ; 13.3% Of The Patients With Trigeminal Neuralgia Were Found In The Age Group Of 36 - 55 Years And 4.1 % Of The Patients With Trigeminal Neuralgia Were Found In The Age Group 18- 35 Years. However, This Association Is Not Statistically Significant ($P > 0.05$) (Figure 4). On Evaluating The Association Between The Gender Involved And The Trigeminal Neuralgia It Was Found That Males (45.8%) Have A Higher Prevalence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia Than Females (37.5%).However, This Association Is Not Statistically Significant ($P > 0.05$)(Figure 5).

Trigeminal Neuralgia Is An Uncommon Disorder Presenting With Brief Lancinating Pain In The Facial Region In An Area Distributed By The Price Germinal Nerve²⁸. Tn Has Been Reported That There Was Considerable Overlap In Age Ranges Of Patients With Classical Tn And Symptomatic Tn. The Reported Peak Age Of Onset Of Tn Is In The 5th To 8th Decades Of Life ²⁹. A Similar Trend Was Also Observed In Our Study With The Peak Age Of Onset Between 5th And 6 Th Decades Of Life. Trigeminal Neuralgia As A Gender Inclination. In Literature, Male Predominance Has Been Reported In Three Reports From India ^{30,8}. Zakrzewska Et Al³¹ Observed An Equal Representation Of Male To Female Incidence In The Study Population. Yadav Et Al ³² Observed An Male Predominance In Study When Compared To Females. A Similar Trend Was Also Observed In Our Study With Male Predominance Of 54.1% And Females With 45.8 %. Conversely Female Predominance Has Been Reported In The Ratio Of 5.9 : 3.4. ^{33,34}

Tn Has A Incidence Of 4-5/100,000 Of The Population. It Is Nearly Twice As Common In Women And The Incidence Increases With Age Around 1 In 1000 Patients Older Than 75 Years ³⁵. It Is Also Interesting To Note That Three Reports From India Demonstrated A Male Predominance. Kucuk A O Et Al ³⁶ States That Females (66%) Dominated The Study Population More Than Males (34%). In Our Study, It Was Found That The Incidence Of Tn Is Greater Than Other Orofacial Neuralgia Which Is In Concordance With Other Literature.We Have Observed That Smaller Sample Size And Uni-Centre Study Would Be The Limitation Of The Study. Our Institution Is Passionate About High Quality Evidence Based Research And Has Excelled In Various Fields (³⁷⁻⁴⁷.Hence, Future Scope Of The Study Should Concentrate On Greater Sample Size And Various Ethnicities For Better Results In Order To Improve The Assessment Of Disease For Better Prognosis.

4.Conclusion

To Conclude, Within The Limitations Of The Present Study, Male Patients And Patients Over 55 Years Of Age Were Comparatively More In The Study Population. The Incidence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia Is More When Compared To Other Orofacial Neuralgias.The Study Showed No Significant Association Of Orofacial Neuralgia With Age And Gender Of The Study Population.But Still Further Studies With Large Populations Are Needed To Associate Our Findings With Other Regions. Trigeminal Neuralgia Is A Rare Nerve Benign Disorder That Can Have A Major Impact

On The Quality Of Life.Hence, A Stable Source Of Support For These Patients And Their Families For Their Physical And Emotional Problems Should Be Given.

5.Acknowledgement

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6.Conflict Of Interest

The Authors Declare That There Is No Conflict Of Interests.

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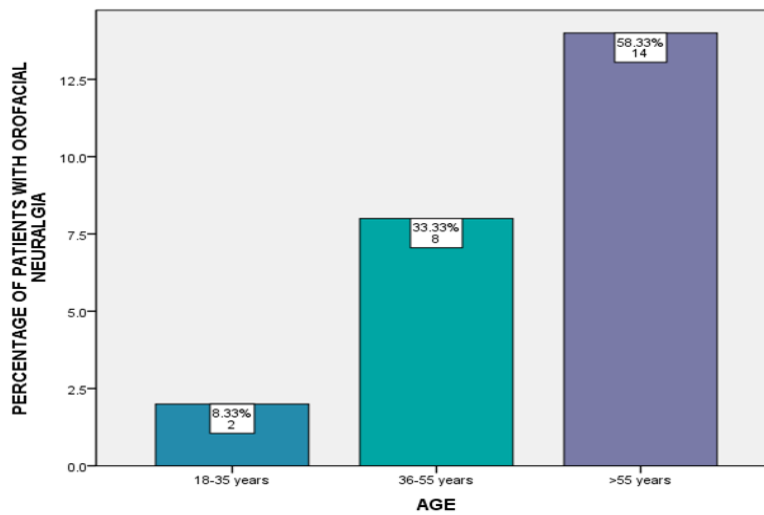


Figure 1 : Bar Chart Represents The Distribution Of The Study Population By Age. The X Axis Denotes The Age Group Of Patients With Orofacial Neuralgia And The Y Axis Denotes The Percentage Of Patients Of Orofacial Neuralgia. From The Graph, It Is Observed That The Incidence Of Orofacial Neuralgia Is More In The Patients Over 55 Years (58.3 %) When Compared To Other Age Groups.

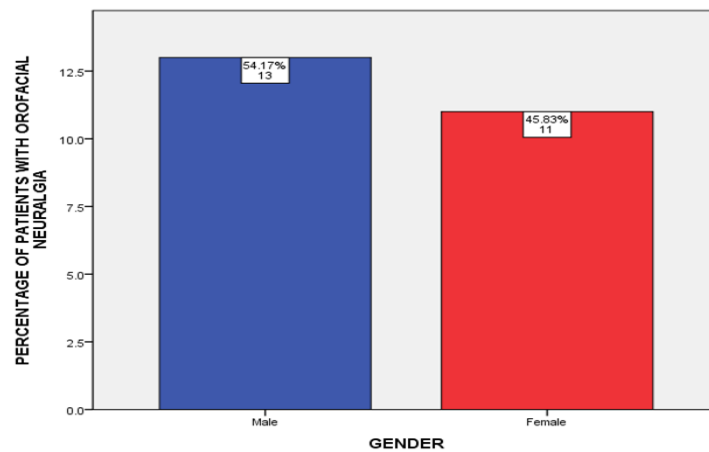


Figure 2 : Bar Chart Represents The Gender Distribution Of The Study Population. The X Axis Denotes The Gender Of The Patients With Orofacial Neuralgia And The Y Axis Denotes The Number Of Patients With Orofacial

Neuralgia. From The Graph It Is Observed That The Incidence Of Orofacial Neuralgia Is More Prevalent Among Males(54.1%) When Compared To Females(45.8%).

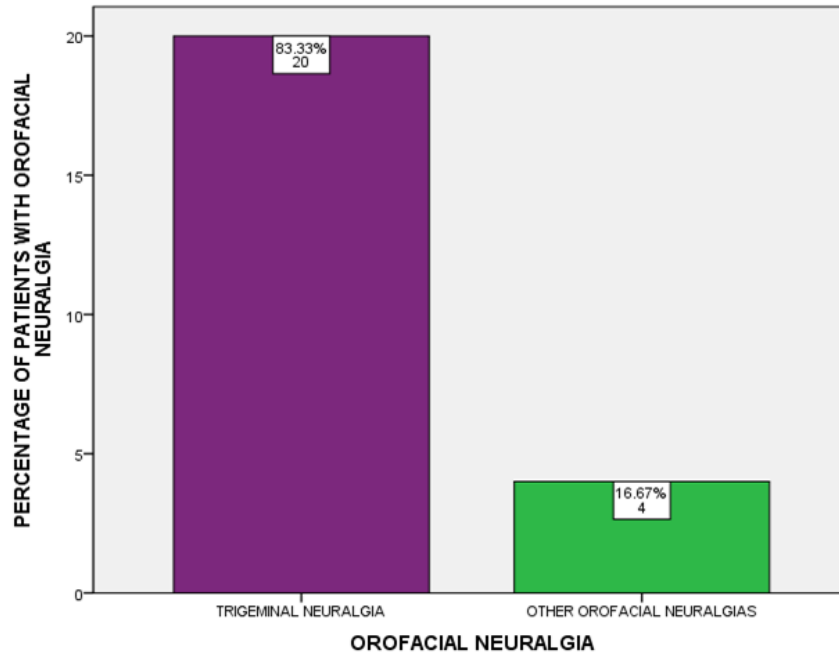


Figure 3: Bar Chart Represents The Prevalence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia Among Other Orofacial Neuralgias.. The X Axis Denotes The Orofacial Neuralgia And The Y Axis Denotes The Number Of Patients With Orofacial Neuralgia . From The Graph, It Is Observed That A Higher Prevalence Trigeminal Neuralgia (83.3 %) Among Other Orofacial Neuralgias (16.6%).

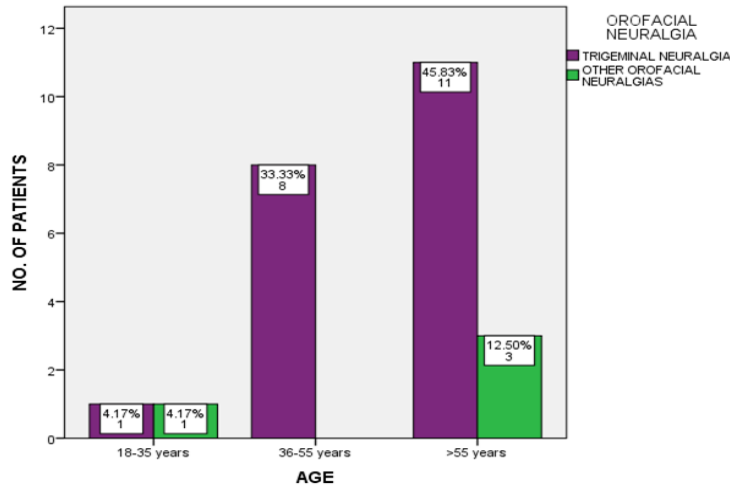


Figure 4: Bar Chart Represents The Association Between The Age And Orofacial Neuralgia. The X Axis Denotes The Age Group Of The Patients And The Y Axis Denotes The Number Of Patients. From The Graph, It Is Observed That The Majority Of The Patients With Trigeminal Neuralgia Were Found Over 55 Years Of Age(45.8%) Followed By 36 - 55 Years (33.3%) And 18 - 35 Years (4.1%). Chi Square P Value - 0.180 (P > 0.05) Which Showed No Significant Association Between Age Groups And Orofacial Neuralgias. Hence It Is Statistically Not Significant. However, The Majority Of The Patients With Trigeminal Neuralgia Were Found Over 55 Years Of Age (45.8%)

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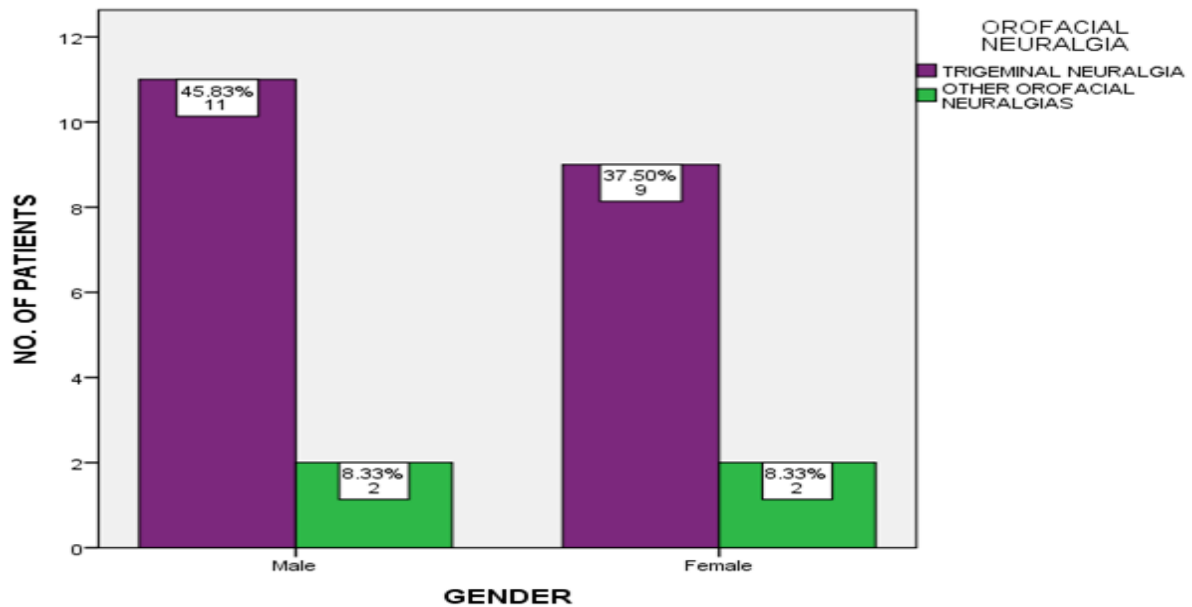


Figure 5: Bar Chart Represents The Association Between The Gender And Orofacial Neuralgia. The X Axis Denotes The Gender Of The Patients And The Y Axis Denotes The Number Of Patients. From The Graph , It Is Observed That The Majority Of The Patients With Trigeminal Neuralgia Were Found In Males (45.8%) When Compared To Females (37.8%).Chi-Square Test Was Done And Association Was Found To Be Statistically Not Significant.Chi Square P Value - 0.637 ($P > 0.05$) Hence Statistically Not Significant. However, The Incidence Of Trigeminal Neuralgia Was More In Males(45.8%) When Compared To Females.