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Neurovascular Orofacial Pain - What a Dentist Needs to Know ?

The sites of the migraine headache are predominantly temporal, supraorbital, frontal, parietal, and occipital. However, they may occur in the orofacial region also. Referral of pain to maxillary teeth is not uncommon. In view of the uncommon pain location, a high number of these patients are misdiagnosed with dental or sinus-related conditions, frequently resulting in inappropriate surgical and medical treatments. If the oro-facial area is the focus of the pain, the newly developed International Classification of orofacial pain refers to "Orofacial Migraine" and "Trigeminal autonomic orofacial pain". Benoliel et al introduced the term Neurovascular oro-facial pain (NVOP), previously also described as lower facial migraine.

NVOP is becoming increasingly recognized in medical and dental clinics. It is important for clinicians evaluating patients with facial pain to show their diligence and identify the associated symptoms of migraine, so as to avoid unnecessary treatments and surgical procedures and deliver appropriate medical therapy. The collaboration between neurologists and facial pain specialists is key to increasing awareness and education on this rare but treatable manifestation of an otherwise very frequent headache disorder.

Keywords: Pain, Orofacial, Lower Face Migraine, Tooth

Biography:

Dr. Sumit Gupta, did his Masters in Orthodontics from GDC Ahmedabad in 1998 and was awarded a gold medal for topping the university in all the branches. He cleared the US National Dental Boards in 2002, did Fellowship & a Master's Program in Temporomandibular Disorders, Orofacial Pain and Dental Sleep Medicine from Roseman University, USA in 2018. He went on to achieve a status of Diplomate of American Board of Orofacial Pain. Dr. Gupta has been running a very successful practice in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE since 1999 as an Orthodontist, TMDs / Orofacial Pain & Dental Sleep Medicine Specialist and consulting in clinics in Dubai & Abu Dhabi. He is the founder & director of Indian Academy of Dental & Facial Pain. He has presented in many conferences worldwide including the recently concluded 16th European Headache Congress in Vienna.