

Stereotactic radiosurgery for trigeminal neuralgia

Information for the public

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This procedure can be used for trigeminal neuralgia because it works well and there are no serious concerns about its safety in this condition.

Trigeminal neuralgia is sudden and severe facial pain, usually affecting one side of the face and lasting for a few seconds to about 2 minutes. Some people have a more continuous aching, throbbing or burning sensation. It can be caused by pressure on the trigeminal nerve, which carries sensations from the face to the brain. In this procedure, radiation is focused at the place where the trigeminal nerve enters the brain. The aim is to relieve pain.

The [NHS website](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

You can [search the NHS website for information about consultants and hospitals](#) that offer this procedure.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

More information

- [NICE's information on interventional procedures guidance](#) explains what an interventional procedure is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on interventional procedures recommendations](#) explains what standard arrangements are.

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