

Table 1 Features of classical trigeminal neuralgia as described by clinicians and patients.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Clinical feature</b>	<b>Patient description</b>
Onset	Sudden and memorable	<i>While brushing my teeth one morning I got a bolt of lightning exploded in my face.</i>
Timing	Each attack lasts seconds to minutes	<i>Within 30 minutes I had three jolts of pain each lasting 30-45 seconds</i>
Periodicity	Number per day can vary from 4-50 , can get series of stabs Remission periods of weeks or years	<i>I was having 20-40 attacks per day. The tic episodes would sometimes completely disappear for as long as six months, then reappear out of nowhere.</i>
Site	Trigeminal nerve distribution, most common lower part of the face and intraoral	<i>my right upper and lower molars, as well as my right lateral tongue, lower half of the right side of my face</i>
Character	Shooting, sharp, electric	<i>lightning bolt, inserted a knife in my cheek, twisted it and pulled it out</i>
Severity	Severe	<i>the intensity is unlike anything I could ever imagine, the pain is so strong it steals your mind, it takes over all your thoughts. it is excruciating</i>
Provoking factors	Light touch	<i>everyday functions of talking, yawning, brushing ones teeth, eating, blowing</i>

		<i>ones nose are punished by deep, mean long stabs of electric current</i>
Relieving factors	Keeping still medications	<i>It helped not to move my face at all</i>
Associated factors	May be some background dull aching pain Occasionally autonomic features Weight loss	<i>a throbbing, burning pain, lost forty pounds in the last two months</i>
Impact	Depression, anxiety, decreased quality of life	<i>Isolation, depression, fear of increasing pain are just some of the emotions I try to work through. This pain had taken over my life</i>