

# Ablation successful for trigeminal neuralgia in pregnancy

June 7 2017

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(HealthDay)—Trigeminal neuralgia in pregnancy can be managed

successfully by conventional radiofrequency ablation of Gasserian ganglion, according to a case report published online June 2 in *Pain Practice*.

Bhanu P. Swain, D.N.B., from Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur, India, and colleagues present the case of trigeminal neuralgia in a 25-year-old woman, who was well controlled with carbamazepine 400 mg. She presented at 10 weeks pregnant, and reported steadily increasing [pain intensity](#) and frequency during her pregnancy. At the time of presentation she had a visual analogue scale (VAS) score of 9 out of 10, and a score of 15 on the Patient Health Questionnaire-9.

The authors found that a percutaneous diagnostic mandibular nerve block, conducted with lignocaine using peripheral nerve stimulator, provided good [pain](#) relief for about 24 hours, but the pain returned at a lower intensity. Once the patient had crossed 13 weeks of pregnancy, they performed percutaneous radiofrequency ablation of trigeminal ganglion. The procedure was conducted with intermittent fluoroscopy; to minimize radiation exposure to the fetus, minimum possible spot images were taken. There was an immediate reduction in pain score from VAS 7 to 3 after the procedure. The patient was discharged home, and has reported being pain-free during follow-up.

"This novel association of trigeminal neuralgia and [pregnancy](#) warrants further studies to explore other treatment modalities and more importantly their safety in such a situation," the authors write.

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Citation: Ablation successful for trigeminal neuralgia in pregnancy (2017, June 7) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-06-ablation-successful-trigeminal-neuralgia-pregnancy.html>

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