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A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR SPHENOPALATINE GANGLION BLOCK (SPGB) FOR THE TREATMENT OF FACE PAIN

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Neuropathic face pain including a typical face pain and trigeminal nerve neuralgia are often associated with significant loss of quality of life for the sufferer. They are often unresponsive to conventional treatments such as anticonvulsants and tricyclic antidepressants which are often poorly tolerated and can cause significant side-effects. Although SPGB has been shown to be a safe and effective treatment, it has been unpopular largely because access to the ganglion is anatomically difficult. Our novel technique delivers 1 ml of 1% lidocaine and depomedrone 40mg submucosally over the vertical plate of palatine bone via a trans nasal approach, under direct vision using a nasal endoscope. Author present 26 patients (13m, 13f) with forms of face pain resistant to conventional treatment. Seven reported complete resolution of their pain, six reported their pain had improved and thirteen were unchanged. Given the patient selection included recalcitrant, long-standing symptoms of face pain, a significant improvement in 50% of the subjects would indicate this technique to be a serious consideration for the treatment for future patients. The technique is straightforward and can easily be delivered by otolaryngologists familiar with the basic techniques of endoscopic sinus surgery.

BIOGRAPHY

Adam Frosh is a consultant Otolaryngologist who's worked at the Lister Hospital, UK for 18 years. He has been heavily involved in research into prion diseases at the MRC and how they affect the practice of Otolaryngology. He is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire, UK and an Honorary Research Fellow at the MRC Institute of Prion Diseases. He has published over 50 scientific works in the scientific literature and has published a book on hosting fine dining dinner parties at home.

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