

## Toothache of non-odontogenic pain, the trigeminal nerve connection

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As general dentists we are often the first to be consulted by patients complaining from a variety of acute and chronic tooth pain. Patients seek professional care when the frequency, duration, or intensity of the pain disturbs their daily lives, or when they notice tissue damage or physical changes.

The clinician's task in such cases is threefold: (1) to establish the correct diagnosis, (2) to find the cause of the pain, and (3) to select the treatment plan that addresses the patient's chief complaint and the secondary problems associated with it. A decision to refer to an expert clinician for further evaluation can be made at any of the three stages.

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