

Lars Bendtsen, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology and Danish Headache Center, Rigshospitalet Glostrup, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Trigeminal neuralgia is one of the most painful disorders known to mankind and can be difficult to diagnose and treat. In 2019, a guideline on trigeminal neuralgia from The European Academy of Neurology was developed by experts from across Europe based on scientific data and practice statements. The guideline answers the most important questions that patients and pain specialists are faced with regarding the management of trigeminal neuralgia.

How to ensure a correct diagnosis? Which clinical features should be considered? Which laboratory tests are required? Which imaging protocols should be used and what is the significance of the possible demonstration of a neurovascular contact? How to manage acute exacerbations? Which medications should be used for the long-term treatment, for how long, at which doses and should combinations be used? Which patients may benefit from a surgical approach and when should surgery be offered? What are the pros and cons of current surgical treatments? How do patients make decisions about their choice?

The above-mentioned clinically important questions will be discussed with the audience based on recommendations from the guideline and from a recent review on trigeminal neuralgia.