

A Simple Working Classification Proposed for Orofacial Pain (OFP) Commonly Encountered in Dental Practice

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LETTER TO EDITORS

Orofacial pain (OFP) is the presenting symptom of a broad spectrum of diseases and is commonly encountered in dental practice. There are currently four main pain classification systems relevant to OFP: a) the International Association for the Study of Pain, b) the International Classification of Headache Disorders, c) the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, and d) the Research Diagnostic

Criteria for Temporomandibular Disorders [1]. More recently, a new taxonomy model for classifying OFP based on ontological principles was proposed [2]. In addition, a simple working type classification for psychosomatic disorders of the oral cavity has been proposed [3]. This letter calls attention to a proposed simple working classification based on etiology for OFP commonly encountered in dental practice (Table 1).

Table 1. A Simple Working Classification Proposed for Orofacial Pain (OFP) Commonly Encountered in Dental Practice

S.No.	Causes of orofacial pain (OFP)	S.No.	Causes of orofacial pain (OFP)
I Neurologic		2	Migraine head ache
1	Neuralgias	3	Cluster head ache
	a. Trigeminal neuralgia	4	Paroxysmal hemicrania
	b. Glossopharyngeal neuralgia	5	Neuralgia-inducing cavitation osteonecrosis (NICO)
	c. Sphenopalatine neuralgia	III Musculoskeletal	
	d. Postherpetic neuralgia	1	Muscular disorders
	e. Lacrimal neuralgia		a. Myositis
2	Multiple sclerosis		b. Muscle neoplasms
3	Auriculotemporal syndrome	2	Temperomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders
4	Malignant neoplasms		a. Congenital and developmental disorders
5	SUNCT (short-lasting, unilateral,neuralgiform headache attacks with conjunctival injection and tearing) syndrome		b. Disc derrangement disorders
6	Anaesthesia dolorosa (post traumatic trigeminal neuropathy)		c. TMJ dislocation
II Vascular			d. Inflammatory disorders
1	Temporal arteritis		e. Ankylosis and fractures
		3	Eagle syndrome

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Table 1. A Simple Working Classification Proposed for Orofacial Pain (OFP) Commonly Encountered in Dental Practice (Continued)

S.No.	Causes of orofacial pain (OFP)	S.No.	Causes of orofacial pain (OFP)
IV	Oral or perioral	VI	Connective tissue disorders
1	Pulpal diseases	1	Rheumatoid arthritis
2	Periodontal diseases	2	Systemic lupus erythematoses
3	Salivary gland disorders	3	Polyarthritis nodosa
4	Oral ulcers	VII	Referred pain
5	Lesions of jaws (maxilla and mandible)	1	Neck
6	Lesions of pharynx		a. Cervical vertebral disease (cervical spondylosis)
7	Ocular lesions	2	Heart
8	Lesions of nose and sinus		a. Angina pectoris
9	Lesions of ear	3	Lungs
V	Psychosomatic		a. Lung cancer
1	Myofascial pain dysfunction syndrome (MPDS)	4	Oesophagus
2	Phantom pain		a. Oesophageal lesions
3	Atypical facial pain	5	Eyes
4	Atypical odontogenic pain		a. Glaucoma
5	Burning mouth syndrome	6	Ears
6	Glossodynia		a. Middle ear disease
7	Glossopyrosis		
8	Idiopathic xerostomia		
9	Idiopathic dysgeusia		

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