

# VA/DVBIC TBI Clinical Grand Rounds

## Orofacial Pain Disorders and the TBI Patient - Think About the Brain

**June 22, 2015, 12:00-1:15 p.m. (ET)**

**Presenter: John Johnson, DDS, MS**

Director of Orofacial Pain Residency, Naval Postgraduate Dental School  
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center  
Bethesda, Md.

**Moderator: Lt. Cmdr. Cathleen Davies**

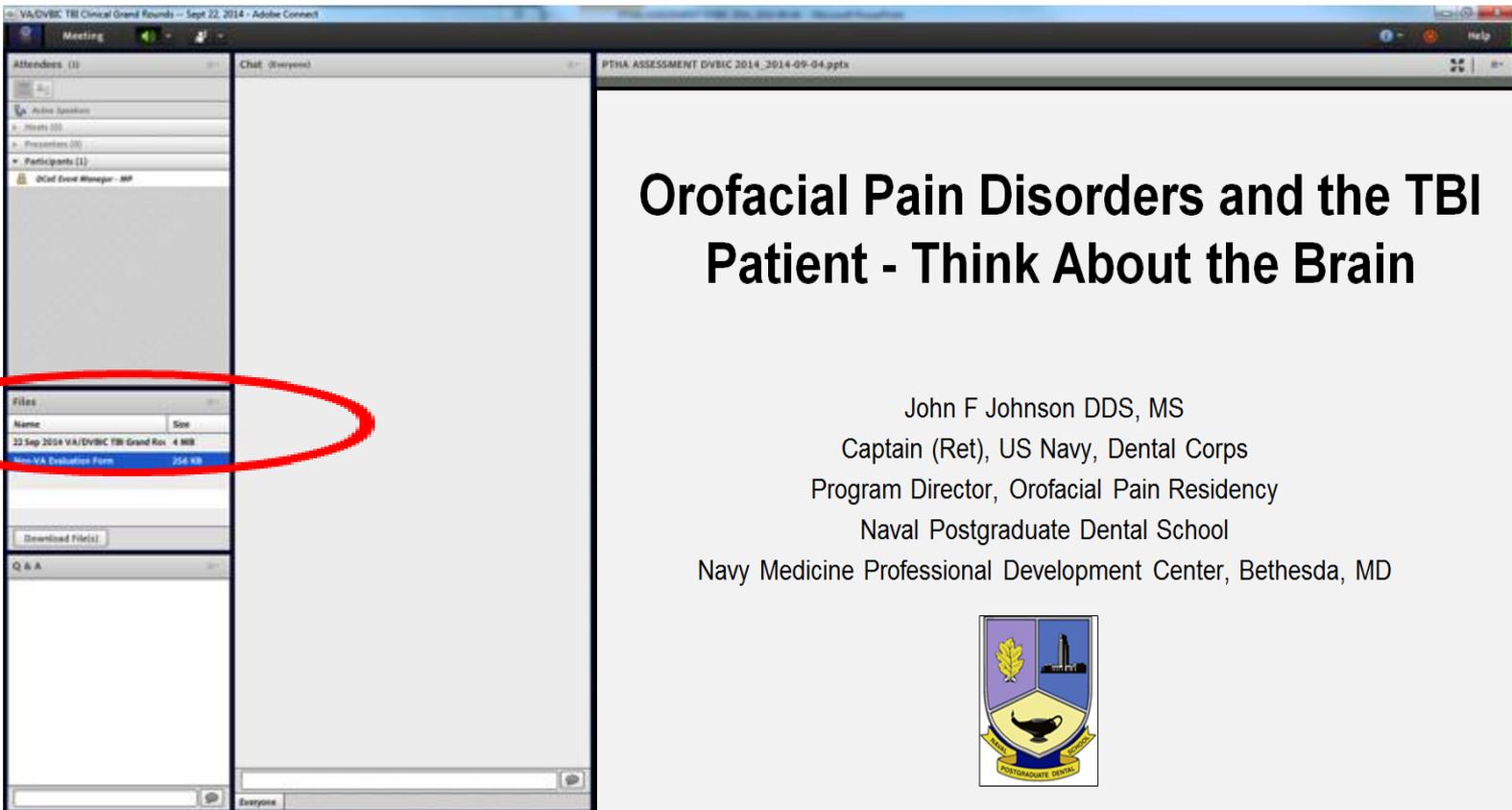
Chief, Clinical Training and Education  
Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center  
Silver Spring, MD

# Webinar Details

- Audio for this webinar is **not** provided via Adobe Connect
  - Dial: VANTS **1-800-767-1750**
  - Use participant pass code: **49114#**
- This webinar session is being recorded
- Question-and-answer (Q&A) session
  - Submit questions via the Q&A box

# Resources Available for Download

Today's presentation and Non-VA Evaluation Form will be available for download at the end of the program in the "Files" box on the screen



The screenshot shows an Adobe Connect meeting window. On the left, there is a sidebar with sections for 'Attendees (1)', 'Active Speakers', 'Items (0)', 'Presenters (0)', 'Participants (1)', and 'Files'. The 'Files' section is circled in red and contains a table with two columns: 'Name' and 'Size'. The table lists two files: '23 Sep 2014 VA/DVBC TBI Grand Ron' (4 MB) and 'Non-VA Evaluation Form' (254 KB). Below the 'Files' section is a 'Downloaded Files' section and a 'Q & A' section. The main area of the meeting displays a presentation slide titled 'Orofacial Pain Disorders and the TBI Patient - Think About the Brain'. The slide content includes the name 'John F Johnson DDS, MS', his rank 'Captain (Ret), US Navy, Dental Corps', his role 'Program Director, Orofacial Pain Residency', his affiliation 'Naval Postgraduate Dental School', and his location 'Navy Medicine Professional Development Center, Bethesda, MD'. At the bottom of the slide is the logo for the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, which features a shield with a yellow leaf, a black lighthouse, and a yellow fish, with the text 'POSTGRADUATE DENTAL' below it.

Name	Size
23 Sep 2014 VA/DVBC TBI Grand Ron	4 MB
Non-VA Evaluation Form	254 KB

**Orofacial Pain Disorders and the TBI Patient - Think About the Brain**

John F Johnson DDS, MS  
Captain (Ret), US Navy, Dental Corps  
Program Director, Orofacial Pain Residency  
Naval Postgraduate Dental School  
Navy Medicine Professional Development Center, Bethesda, MD



# Continuing Education Details

- All attendees are eligible for 1.0 CEU hours of ACCME, ACCME-NP, ANCC and APA for 100% attendance.
- In order to qualify for CEUs, the program evaluation and post test must be completed by **July 22, 2015** with a passing score of 80%.

## VHA Attendee Instructions:

- VHA participants **must be preregistered** to complete the evaluation and post test in TMS.
- VHA staff should email [Christopher.white3@va.gov](mailto:Christopher.white3@va.gov) if you were unable to register before the webinar started.
- Certificate of completion may be printed through TMS upon successful completion.

# Non-VA Participant Instructions

- All Non-VA participants seeking CEUs will need to complete and email the program's fillable PDF **Non-VA Evaluation Form** by **July 22, 2015**.
- Please save and email a copy of your completed Non-VA Eval/Post-Test Form to **EESEPC@va.gov**
- Your certificate will be sent to you using the email address provided on your evaluation form.
- Questions or concerns should be sent to EPC by email at **EESEPC@va.gov**, or the EES Customer Service by phone at **1.877.EES.1331 opt 5**.
- Finally, the **Non-VA Evaluation Form** will be available for download right here on Adobe Connect at the end of today's program.

# Webinar Overview

- This educational presentation will cover the assessment and management of orofacial pain-temporomandibular disorders (TMDs) in patients with a history of mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or posttraumatic stress disorders (PTSD). When patients present with painful TMDs, healthcare providers have traditionally focused care solely towards peripheral anatomic structures, such as masticatory muscles and the temporomandibular joint (TMJ).
- Often providers have not been trained to consider the management of TMDs in the context of TBI or PTSD, or how the aforementioned might affect brain activity that can modulate trigeminal nerve motor responses.

# Webinar Overview

- By the conclusion of this educational presentation, learners will gain knowledge to:
  - distinguish the difference between a site versus a source of pain;
  - describe four brain regions that can influence non-voluntary jaw muscle activity; and
  - identify three key patient characteristics that affect the outcome of orofacial pain-TMD therapy.

# Presenter: John F. Johnson, DDS, MS



**John F. Johnson, DDS, MS**

- Graduated from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry
- Performed a general practice residency at the Naval Regional Medical Center, Camp Pendleton, California, and completed residencies in oral medicine at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and in orofacial pain at the University of Kentucky
- Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Medicine and the American Board of Orofacial Pain
- Retired in 2010 after 30 years of active duty service in the Navy Dental Corps. During his Navy career, Dr. Johnson served as the orofacial pain specialty advisor to the Navy Surgeon General from 2002 to 2009
- Oral board examiner for the American Board of Orofacial Pain and a site visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation
- Program director of the orofacial pain residency at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School in Bethesda, Md.

# Orofacial Pain Disorders and the TBI Patient - Think About the Brain

John F Johnson DDS, MS

Captain (Ret), US Navy, Dental Corps

Program Director, Orofacial Pain Residency

Naval Postgraduate Dental School

Navy Medicine Professional Development Center, Bethesda, MD



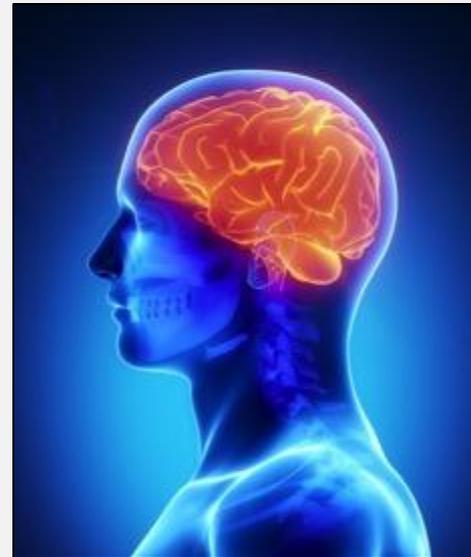
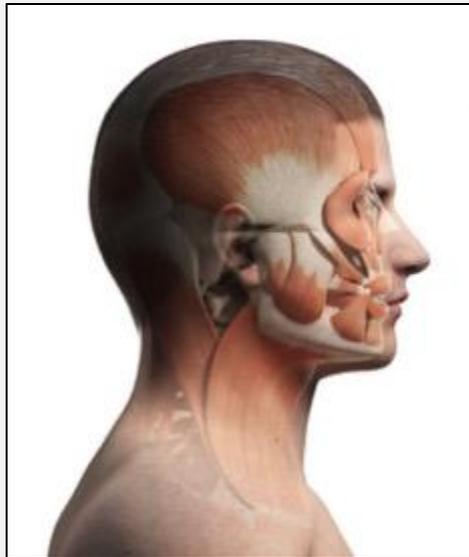
# Disclosure

- The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not reflect the official policy of the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.
- Dr. Johnson has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.
- Dr. Johnson does not intend to discuss off-label/investigative use of commercial products or devices.

# Introduction

“It is much more important to know what sort of patient has a disease than what sort of disease the patient has.”

Sir William Osler



# Objectives

1. distinguish site vs. source of pain
2. describe brain regions that can influence non-voluntary jaw muscle activity
3. identify key patient characteristics that affect the outcome of therapy



**What?  
Why?  
What else?**

# Orofacial Pain

## The Challenge



# What is orofacial pain?

- collection of pain disorders affecting associated with the head, face and neck (de Leeuw & Klasser, 2013)
  - dental
  - autoimmune
  - infectious
  - malignant
  - musculoskeletal \*
  - neurologic
  - neurovascular

\* most common non-dental

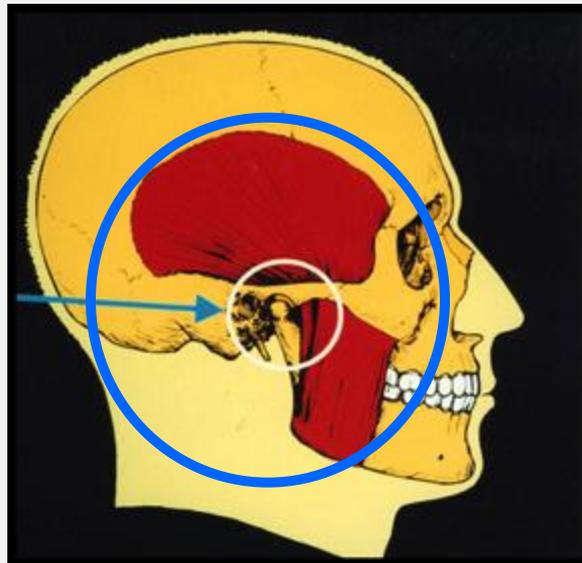


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Temporomandibular Disorders

## (TMD, TMJ, TMJD, MPDS)

- disorders involving the muscles of mastication and adjacent structures (Greene, 2010)
- ICD-10, M26.62, arthralgia of temporomandibular joint
- *non-specific diagnosis* (...what?...why?...what else?)



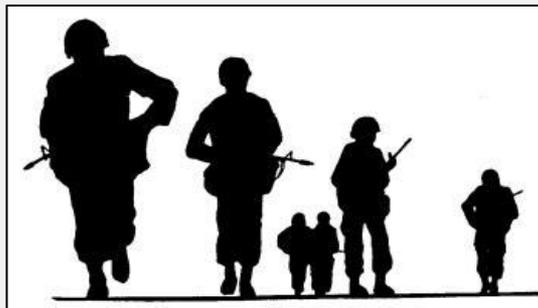
Graphic Courtesy of: Dr. J Okeson

# Temporomandibular Disorders

## Traumatic Brain Injury

### Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

- TMD's after TBI - no studies
- US veterans with TBI → 3x > likelihood of PTSD  
(Carlson, Nelson, Orazem, Nugent, Cifu & Sayer 2010)
- Croatian war veterans with PTSD
  - 48% masticatory muscle pain
  - 22% TMJ arthralgia  
(Muhvic-Urek, Uhac, Vuksic-Mihaljevic, Leovic, Blecic & Kozac, 2007)
- possible inference → TMD symptoms might not be unusual in veterans with TBI and/or PTSD



# Clinical Case



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Our Patient

- 45+ yo male with c/o bilateral mid-face & preauricular pain
- 3 years ago...blast injury in Afghanistan
  - loss of consciousness
  - multiple shrapnel injuries
  - bilateral above the knee traumatic amputations



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Our Patient

## Problem List / Medications

- anxiety disorder - NOS
- carpal tunnel syndrome
- chronic pain
- coronary artery disease
- herniated intervertebral discs
- history of TBI
- insomnia
- lower back pain
- limb pain
- traumatic amputations
- acetaminophen, 2600 mg/d
- atorvastatin, 40 mg/d
- docusate, 200 mg/d
- eszopiclone, 3 mg/d
- nitroglycerin spray, prn
- prazosin, 3 mg hs
- tramadol, 200 mg/d



# Our Patient

## Previous Orofacial Pain Treatment

- non-steroidal analgesics
- muscle relaxants
- dental splint (mouthpiece)
- bilateral TMJ arthrocentesis
- no improvement



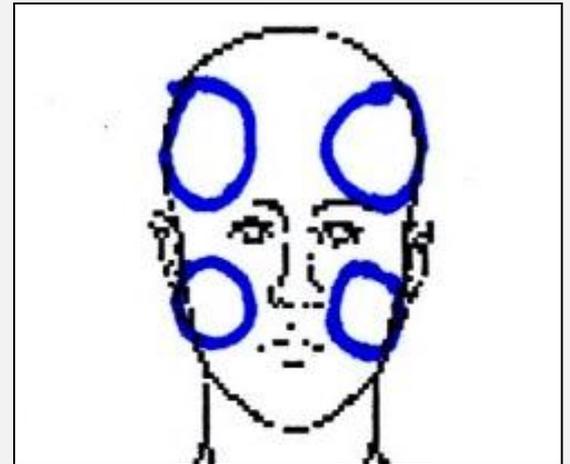
# Our Patient

## Where to Begin?



# Our Patient

- 45+ yo male with c/o bilateral mid-face & preauricular pain
  - onset = 2 yrs ago, gradual
  - daily, constant, dull ache
  - today = 5/10
  - average = 5/10
  - worst = 8-9/10
  - aggravating = chewy foods
  - alleviating = resting jaw
  - associated sxs = jaw always tight, teeth very frequently clenched



# Our Patient



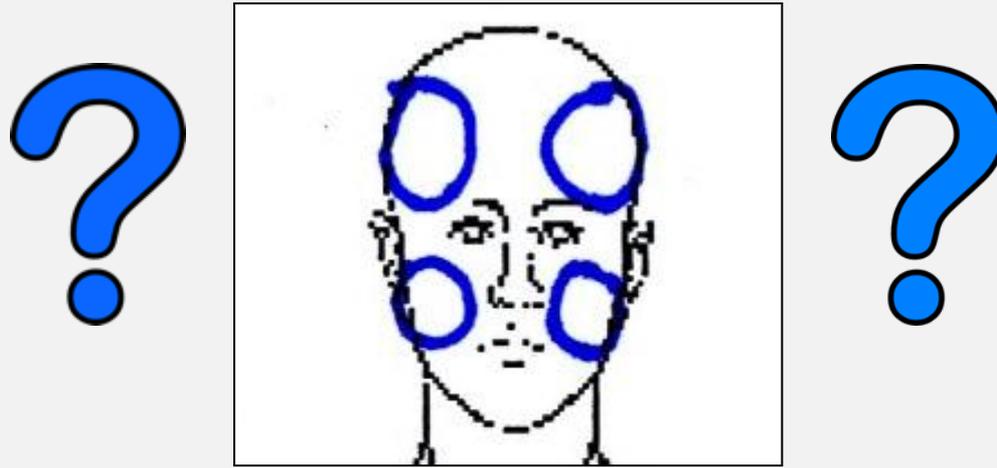
Graphic Courtesy of: Dr. J Johnson

- alert, oriented, slight distress, CN II-XII grossly intact
- cervical ROM: unrestricted, all movements painful
- mandibular ROM: unrestricted, all movements painful\*
- TMJs: not tender
- masticatory\* & cervical muscles: all tender or painful
- dental: no contributory findings

\* reproduce chief complaint

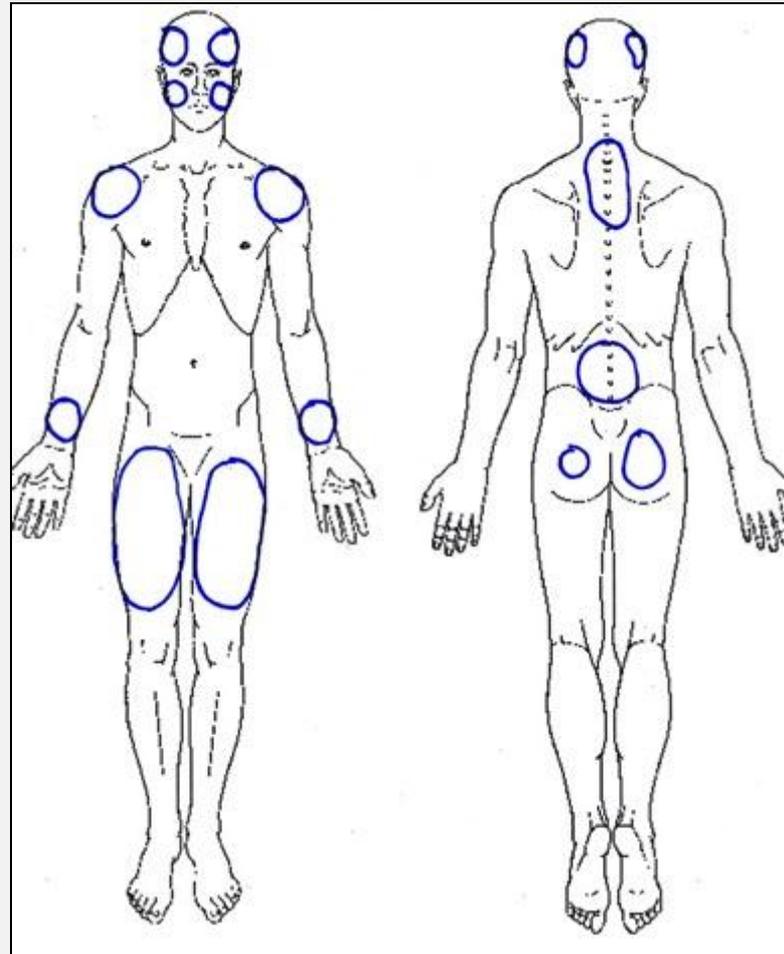
# Our Patient

## Enough Information?



# Our Patient

- total body pain = 8/10
- stress = 8/10
- anxiety = 5/10
- depression = 5/10
- anger = 6/10
- sleep = poor
  - (+) latency
  - (+) disruption
  - (+) nightmares
  - (-) restorative



# Our Patient

**Think Beyond Peripheral Anatomy...  
Think About the Patient in Context...  
Think About the Brain**

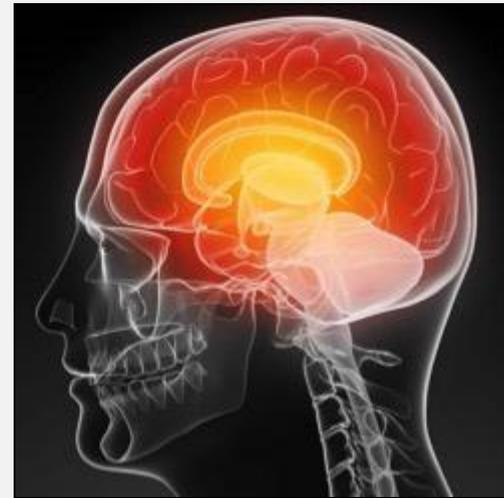
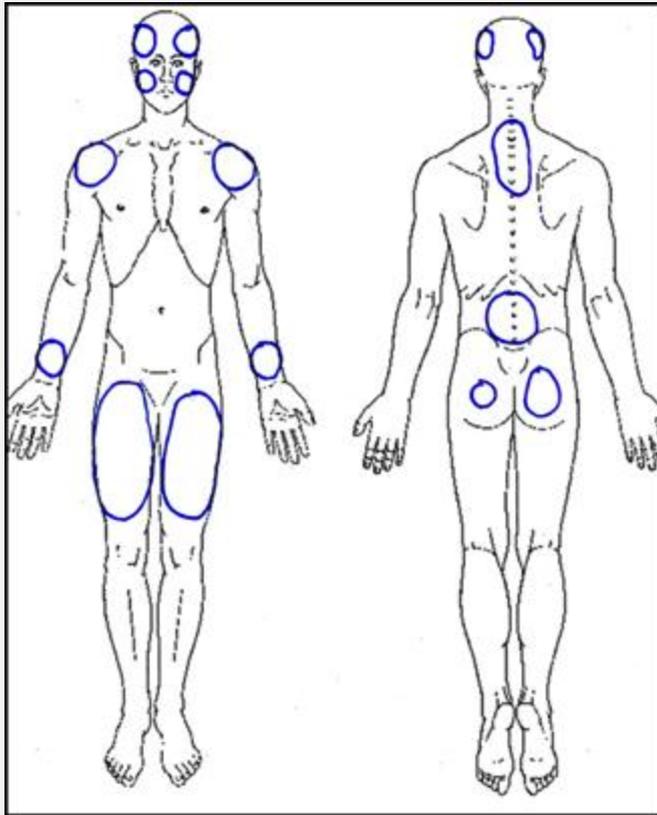


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

**What?  
Why?  
What else?**

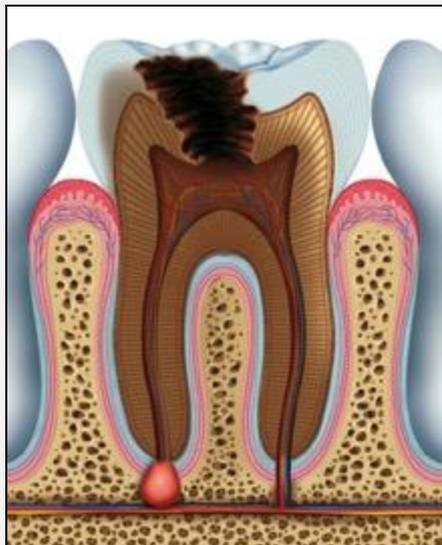
# How Do We Conceptualize Patients, Pain?



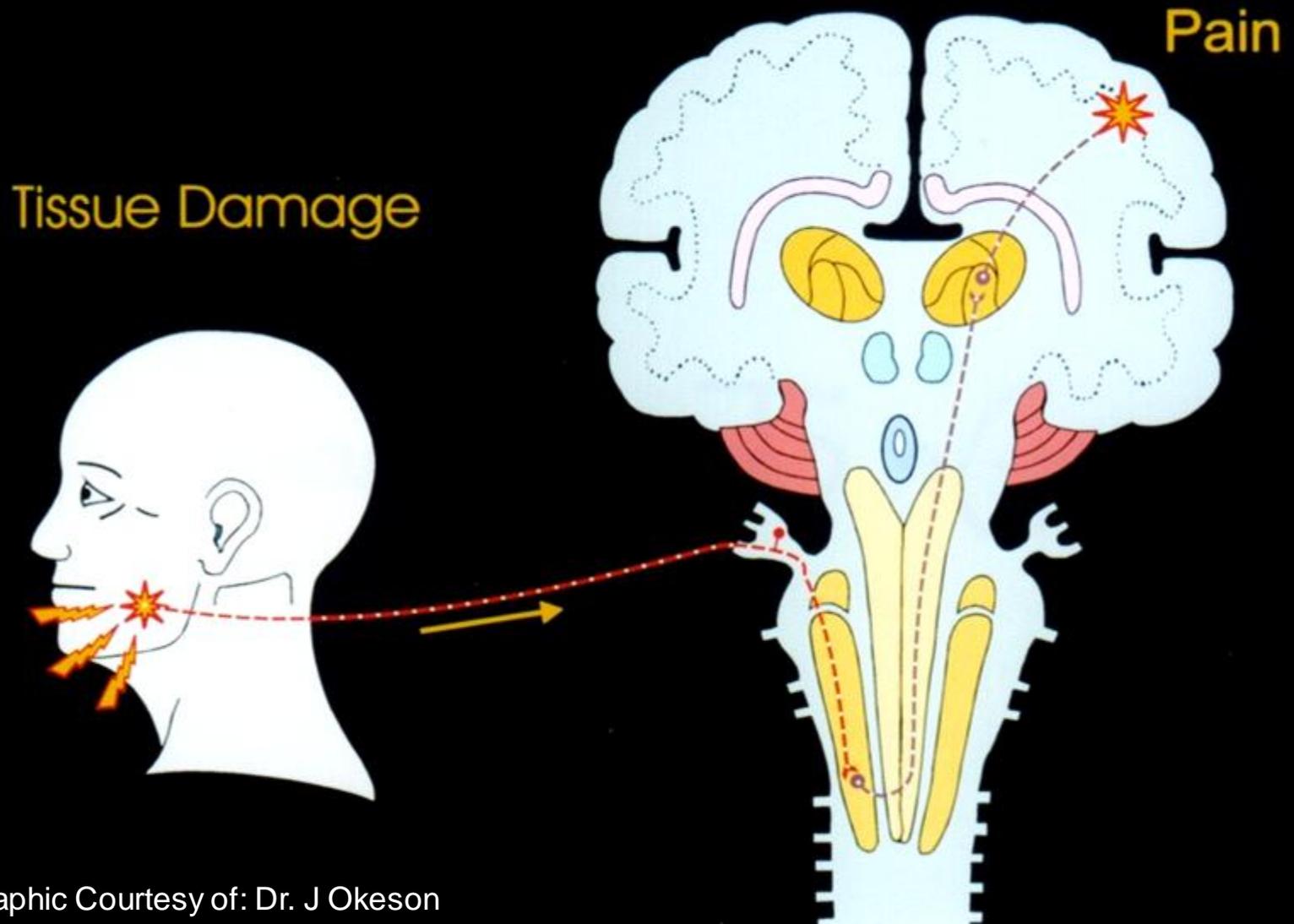
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# Traditional Pain Paradigm

- linear process
  - direct cause and effect relationships
  - find “it”
  - good for acute pain

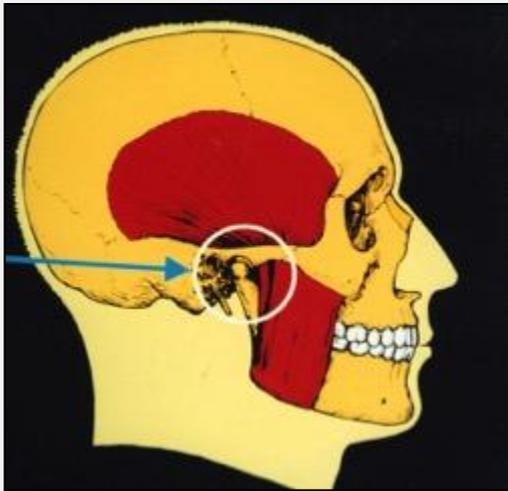


# Peripheral Pain Model



# Randomized Effectiveness Study of Four Therapeutic Strategies for TMJ Closed Lock

Schiffman, Look, Hodges, Swift, Decker, Hathaway, Templeton & Fricton, 2007

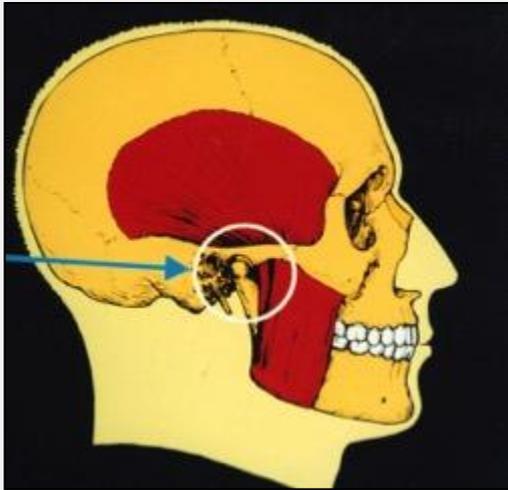


1. medication
2. medication plus splint
3. arthroscopy with lavage
4. arthrotomy

**What was the best therapy?**

# Randomized Effectiveness Study of Four Therapeutic Strategies for TMJ Closed Lock

Schiffman, Look, Hodges, Swift, Decker, Hathaway, Templeton & Fricton, 2007

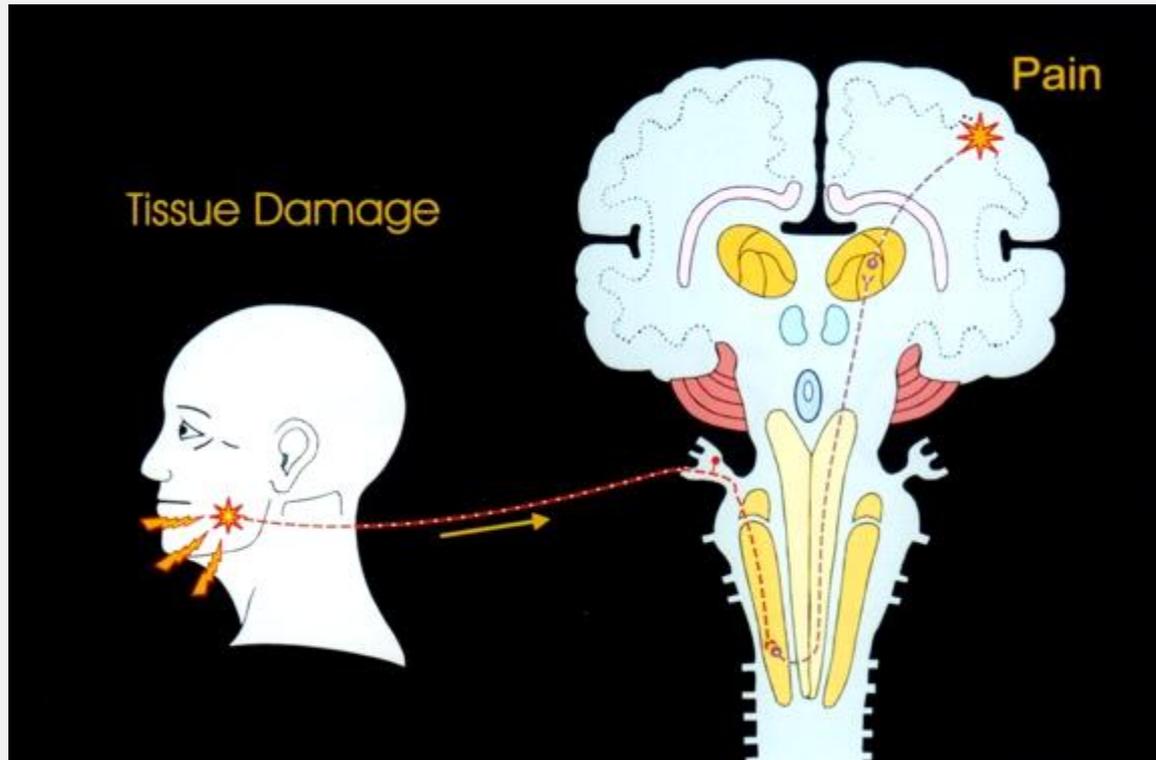


1. medication
2. medication plus splint
3. arthroscopy with lavage
4. arthrotomy

**No difference between groups!**

# Peripheral Pain Model

## Limitations - Especially With Chronic Pain



- over emphasis on peripheral anatomic changes
- increased risk of iatrogenic or no treatment

# How Do We Conceptualize Patients, Pain?



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

peripherally focused, biomedical models of pain are often insufficient for patients with chronic, multi-site pain and/or high affective distress...such as TBI, PTSD, polytrauma patients

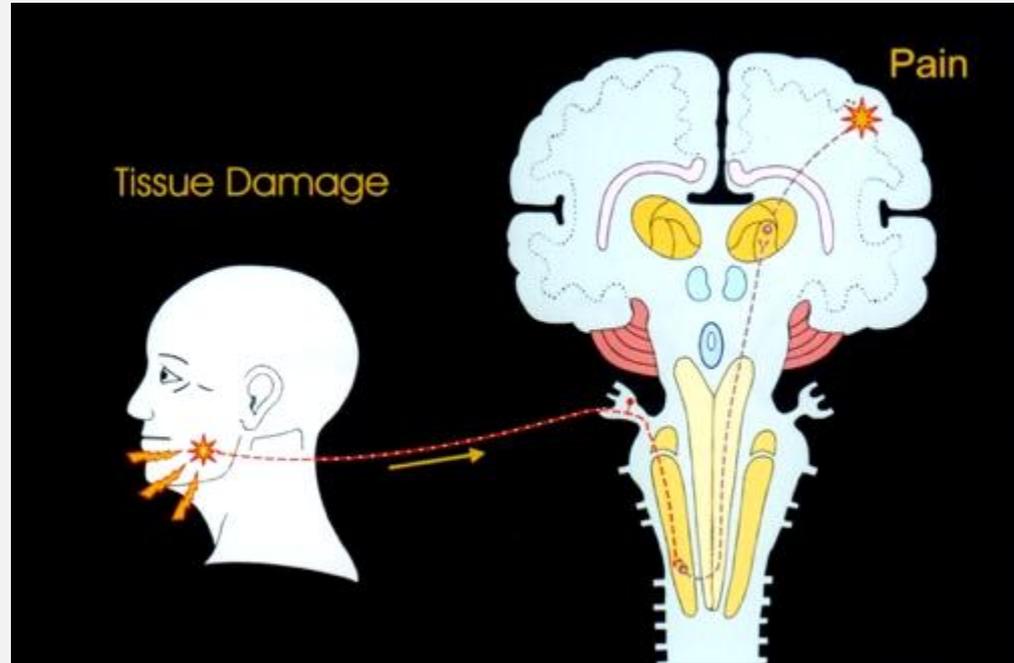
# Objectives

1. **distinguish site vs. source of pain**
2. describe brain regions that can influence non-voluntary jaw muscle activity
3. identify key patient characteristics that affect the outcome of therapy



**What?**  
Why?  
What else?

# Site vs. Source of Pain



- site = where the pain is “felt”
- source = origin of nociception (noxious event)
- site and source are not always the same

# Site vs. Source

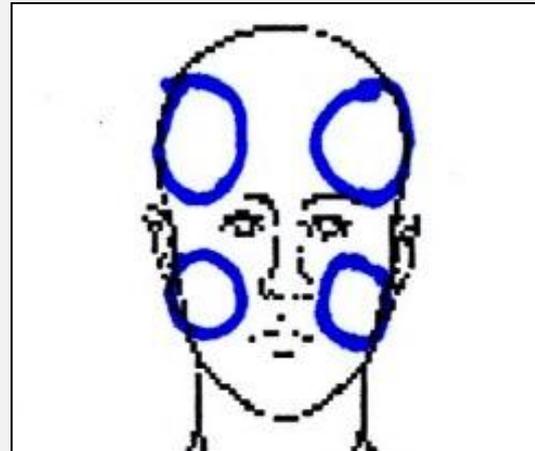
## What?

- muscle?
- joint?
- both?



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

- local?
- referred pain?
- both?



# CN V- Trigeminal Nerve

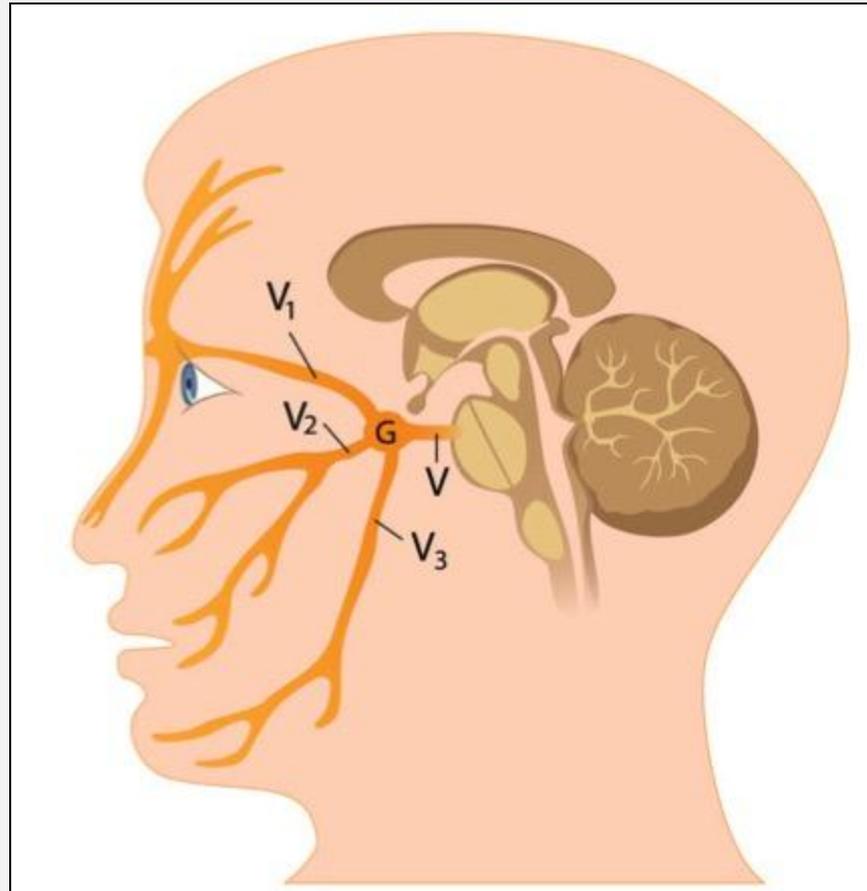
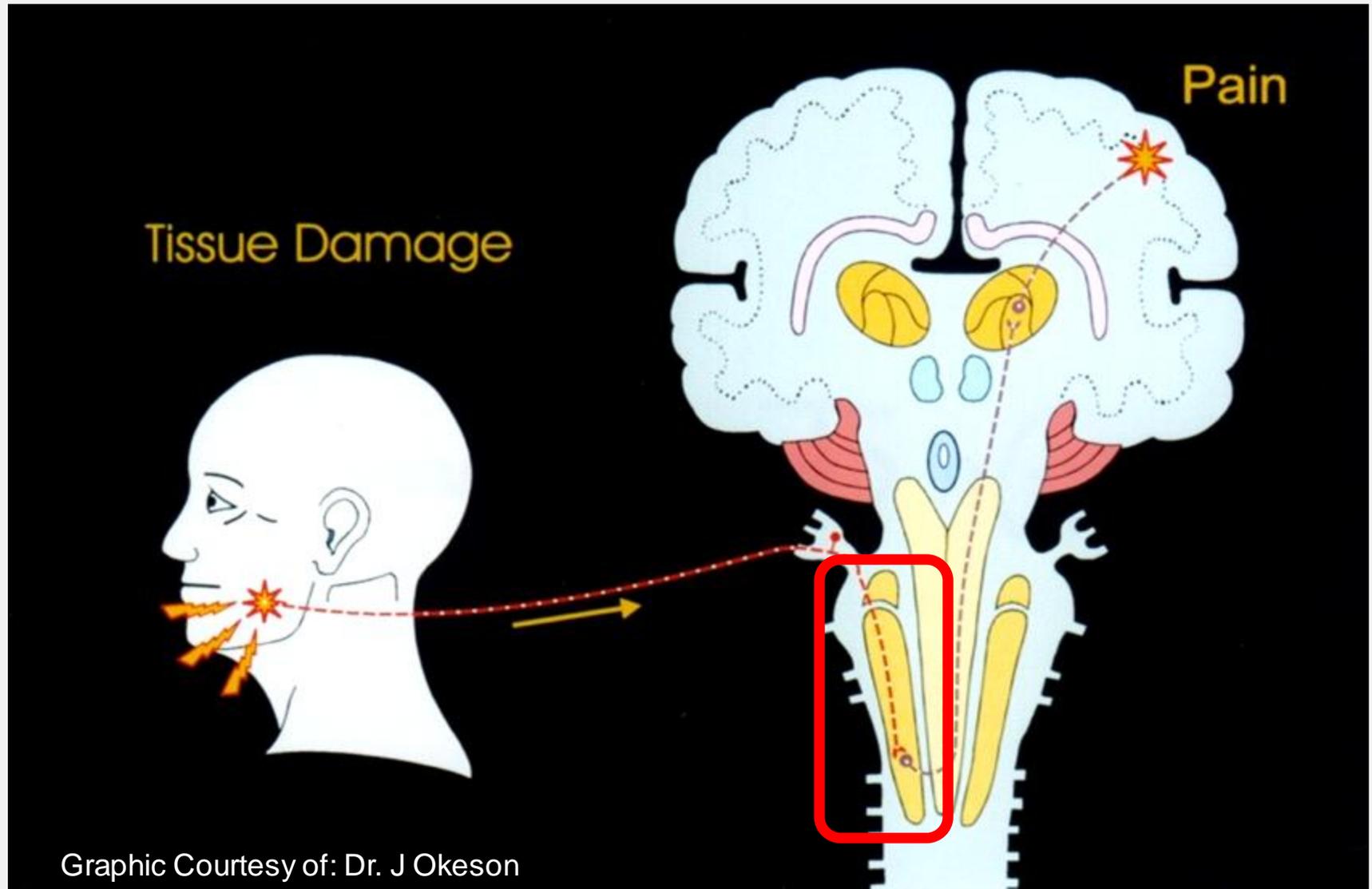


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

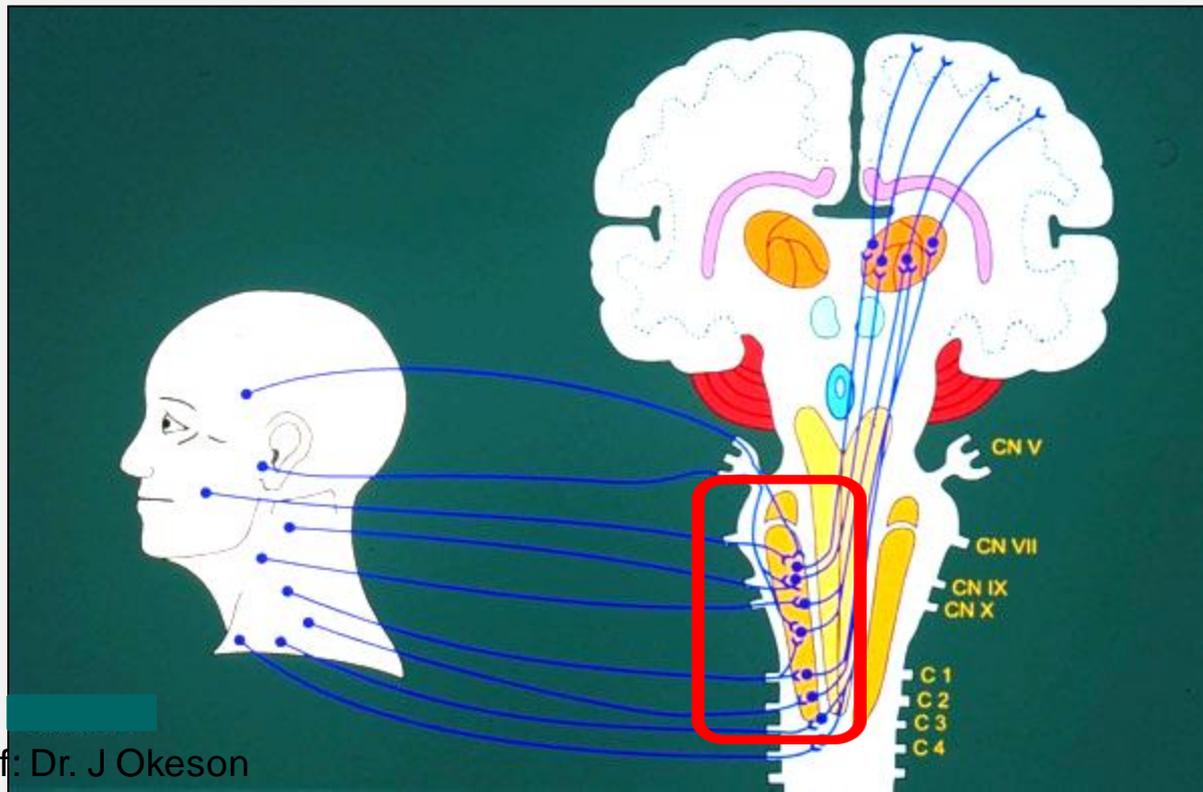
# Trigeminal Nerve

## A Complex Neural System



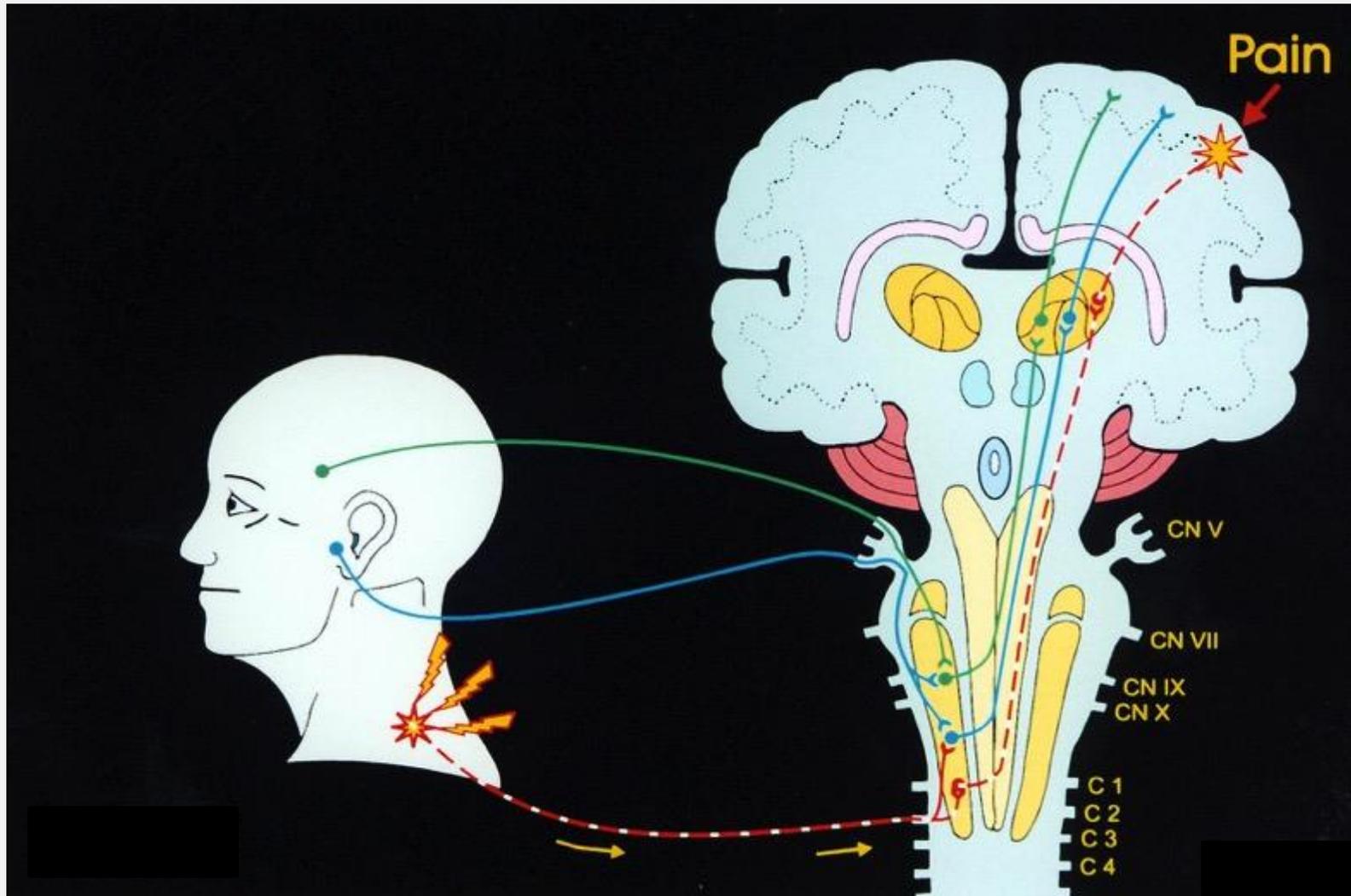
# Trigeminal Convergence

- direct input = CN VII, IX, X and at least C<sub>1-4</sub> (Terman & Bonica, 2001)
- explains why site of pain and source of pain might differ
- referred pain is common in CN V



# Site vs. Source of Pain

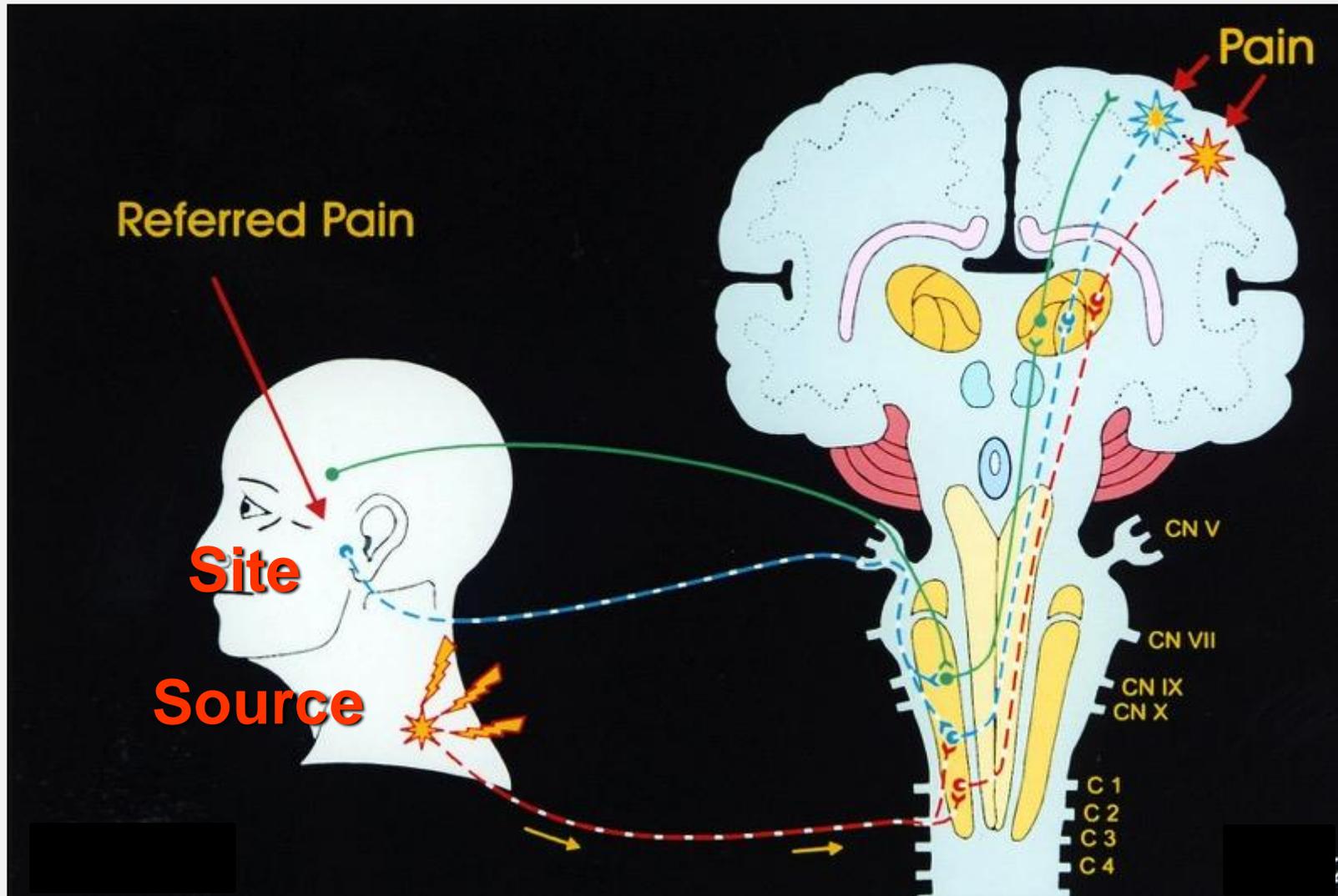
## The Problem of Trigeminal Convergence



Graphic Courtesy of: Dr. J Okeson

# Site vs. Source of Pain

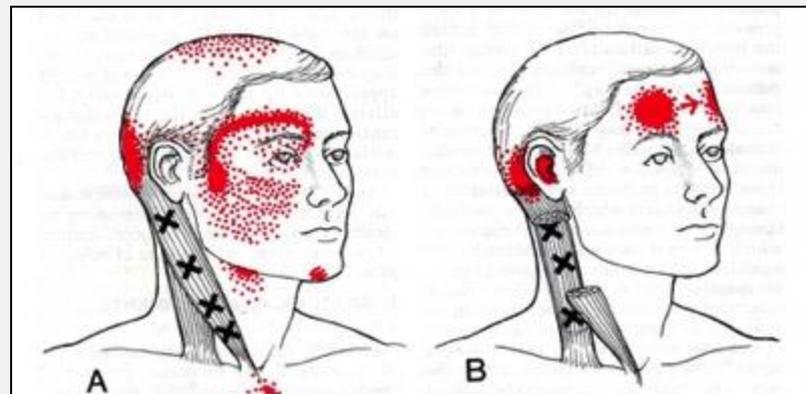
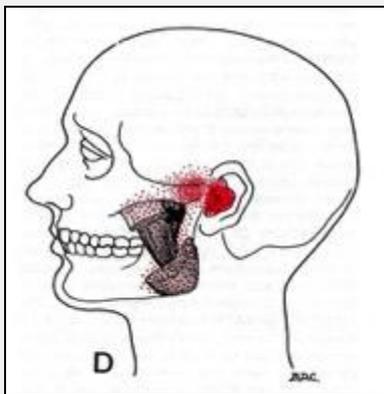
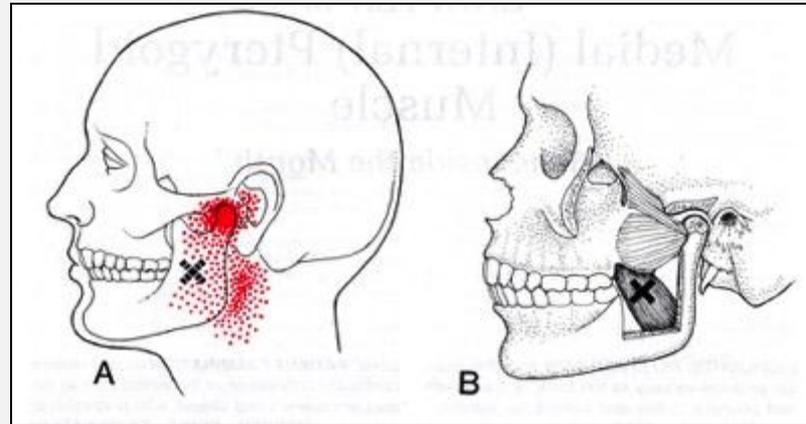
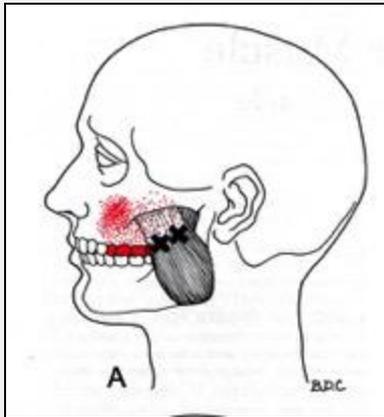
## The Problem of Trigeminal Convergence



Graphic Courtesy of: Dr. J Okeson

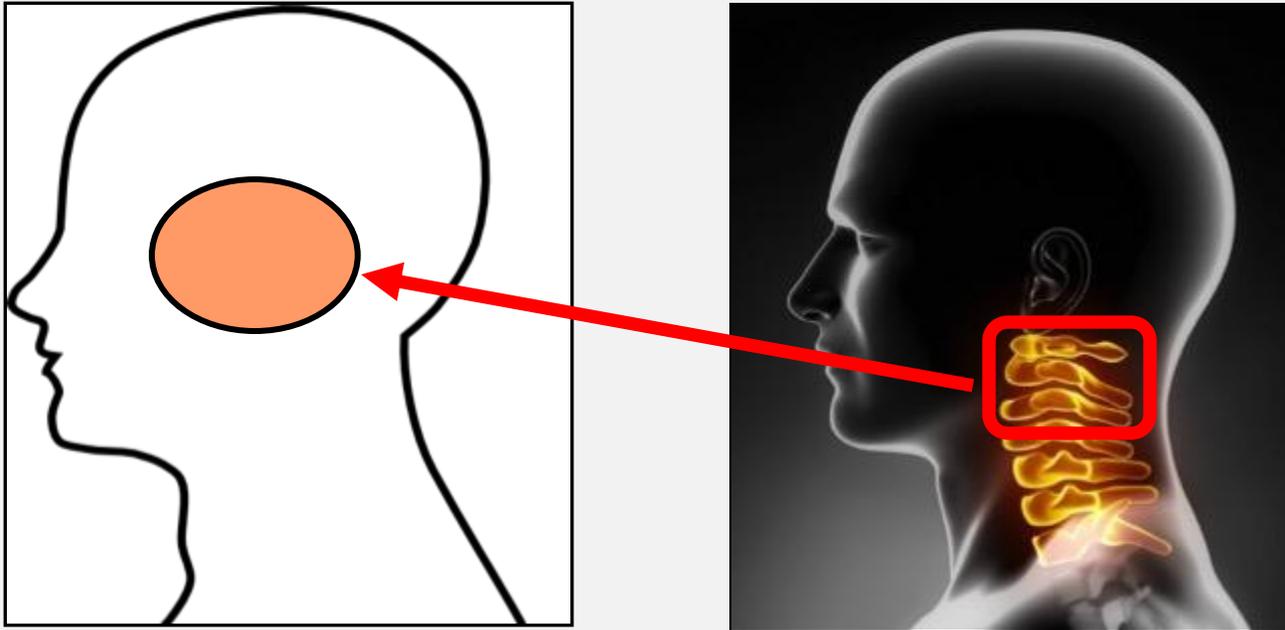
# Trigeminal Convergence

## Referred Muscle Pain



# Trigeminal Convergence

## Cervicogenic Referral - C 1-3



60-80% reported referral

Bogduk & Govind, 2009

Photos Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Implications of CN V Convergence

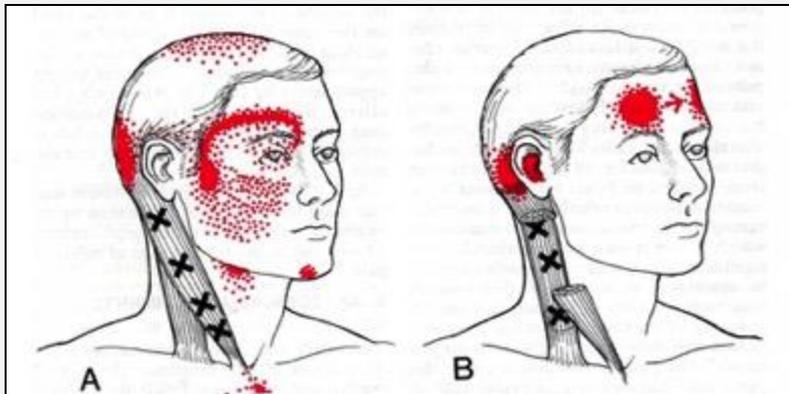
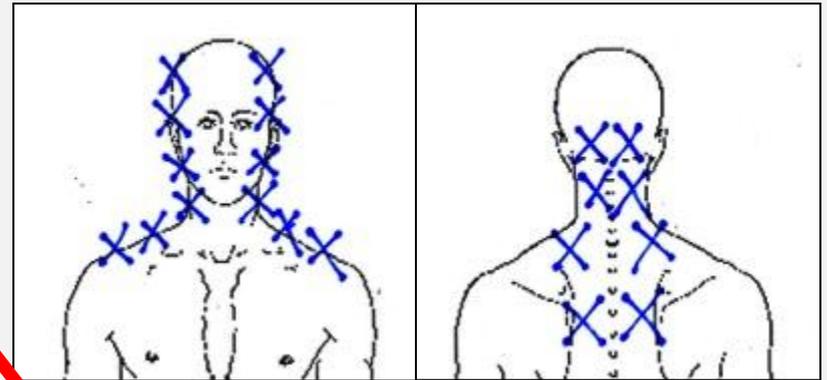
Patient s/p 7 TMJ Surgeries



Graphics Courtesy of: Dr. J Johnson

# Implications of CN V Convergence

Patient s/p 7 TMJ Surgeries



**Site  
vs.  
Source**

Graphics Courtesy of: Simons and Travell, Dr. J Johnson, © Can Stock Photo

# Our Patient...What?

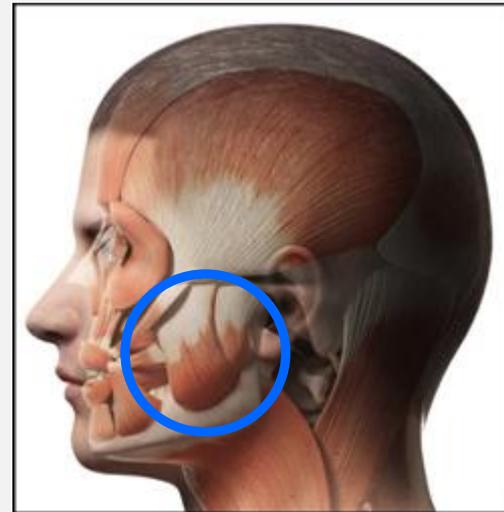
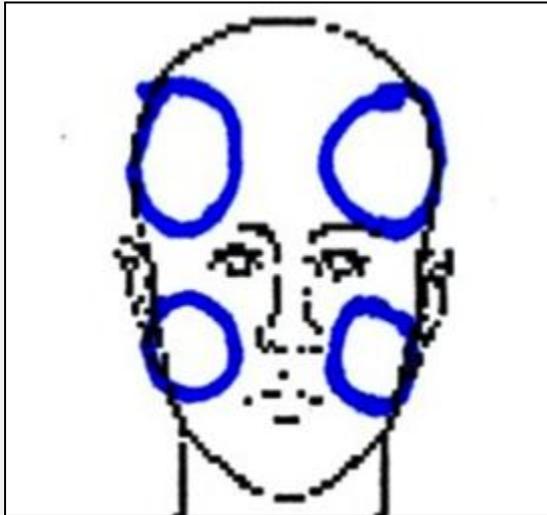


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

site = mid-face & preauricular  
source = masticatory muscles  
**What ? = masticatory myalgia**

# Objectives

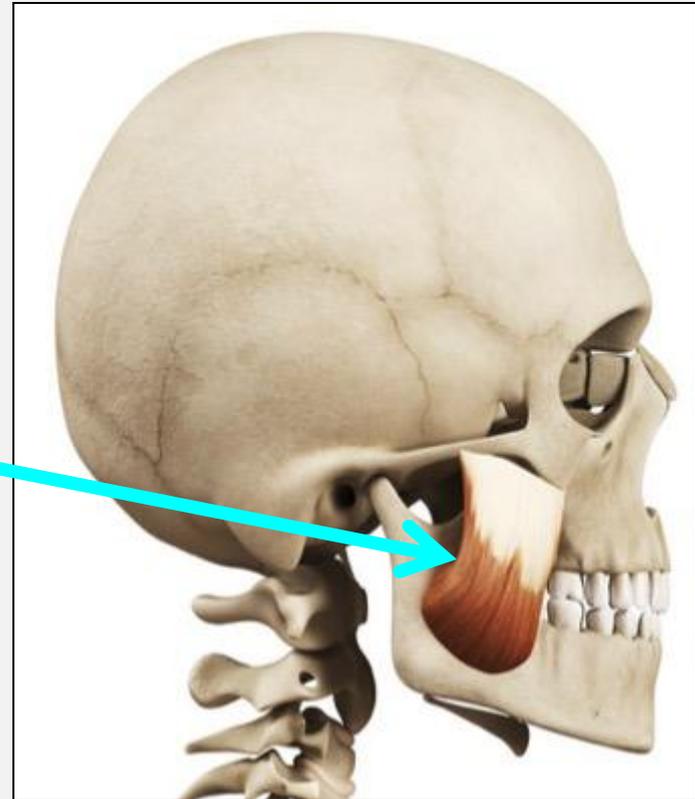
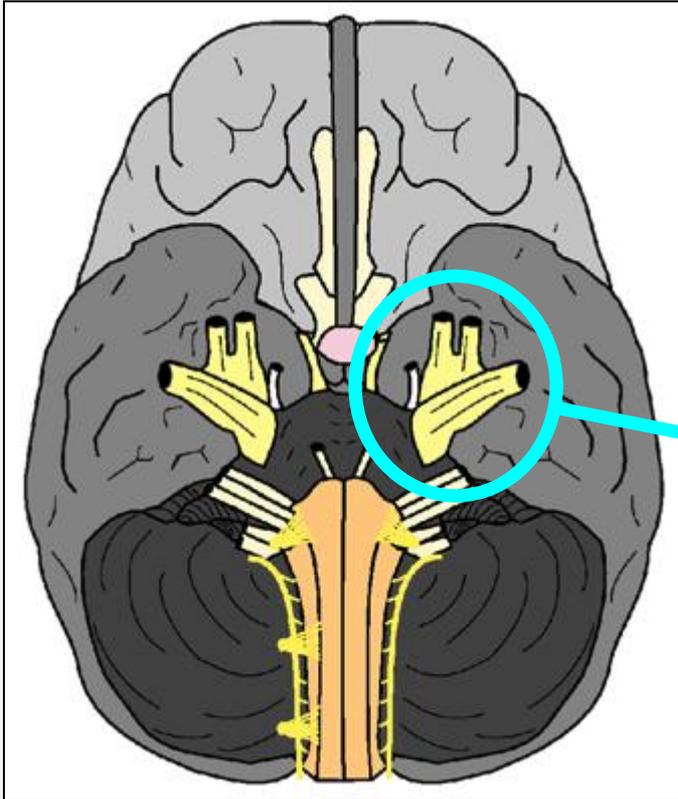
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- 2. describe brain regions that can influence non-voluntary jaw muscle activity**
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What?  
**Why?**  
What else?

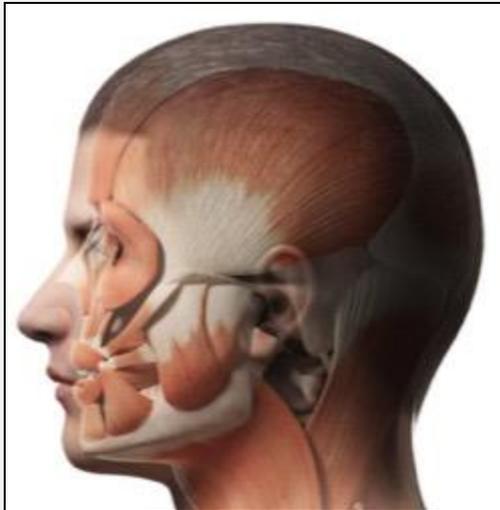
# Masticatory Muscle Activity

## Trigeminal Nerve (CN V) – Sensory & Motor



# Significance of CN V Motor Activity

## Who Cares?



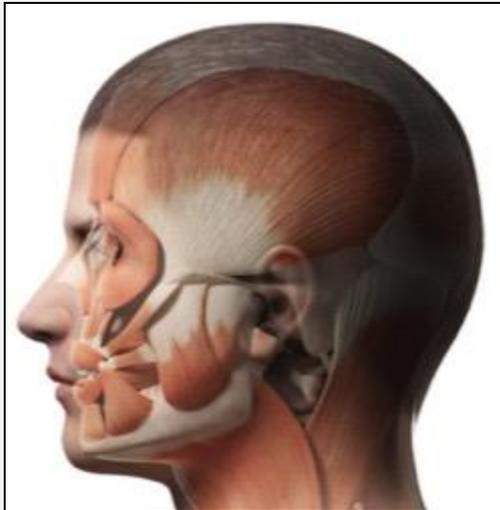
- protracted muscle response
  - metaboreceptors ( $H^+$ , lactate, ATP)
  - fatigue
  - pain (Light, Vierck & Light, 2010)
- joint over-loading (Nitzan, 2001)
  - condylar remodeling
  - osteoarthritis
  - disc disorders

“...excessive loading on articular tissues is one of the causative factors that must be identified and addressed by all clinicians...”

Israel, Diamond, Saed-Nejad & Ratcliffe, 1999

# Significance of CN V Motor Activity

## Who Cares?



Photos Source: © Can Stock Photo

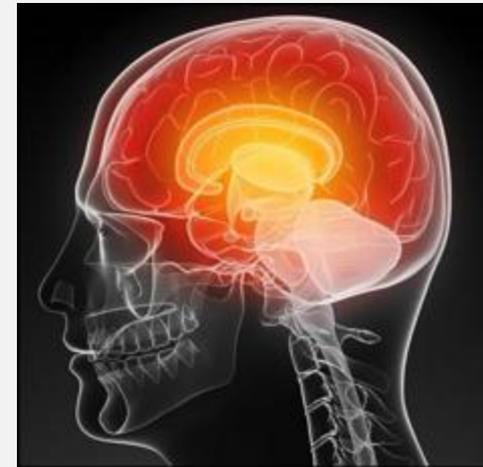
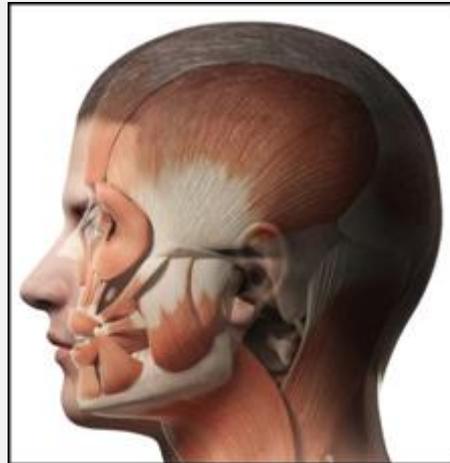
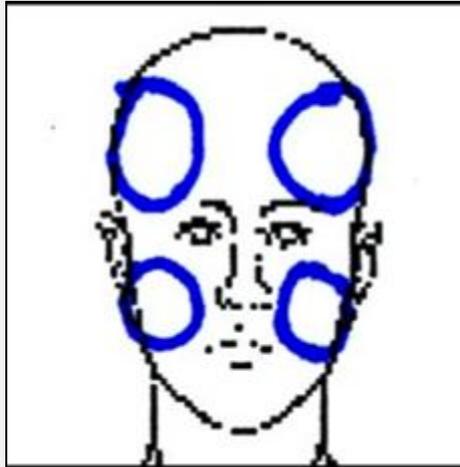
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  - osteoarthritis
  - disc disorders

Can muscle or joint symptoms be effectively managed without addressing central neural drive? Neural drive helps to answer...  
**“Why?”**

# Our Patient

## Masticatory Muscle Pain

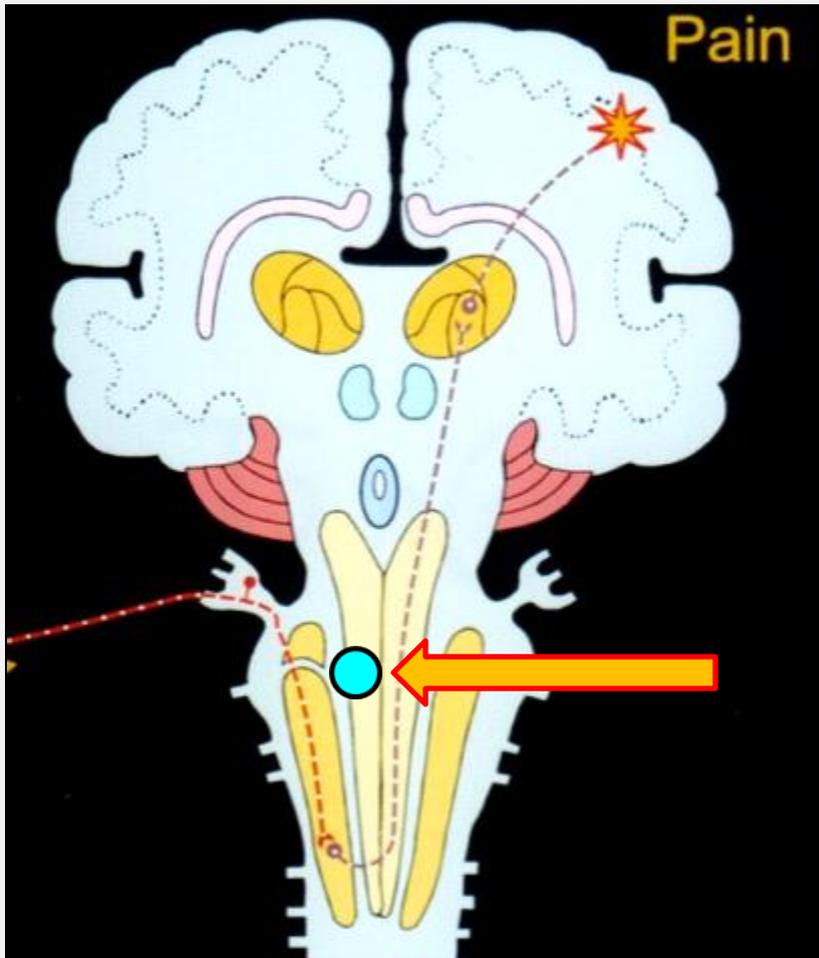
### Is the “Why” Important?



Can his muscle symptoms be effectively managed without addressing central neural drive?

# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Unique Location & Connections



CN V<sub>M</sub> is surrounded by premotor neurons connected to numerous integrative and autonomic brain stem nuclei (Lazarov, 2007)

# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Neural Circuits

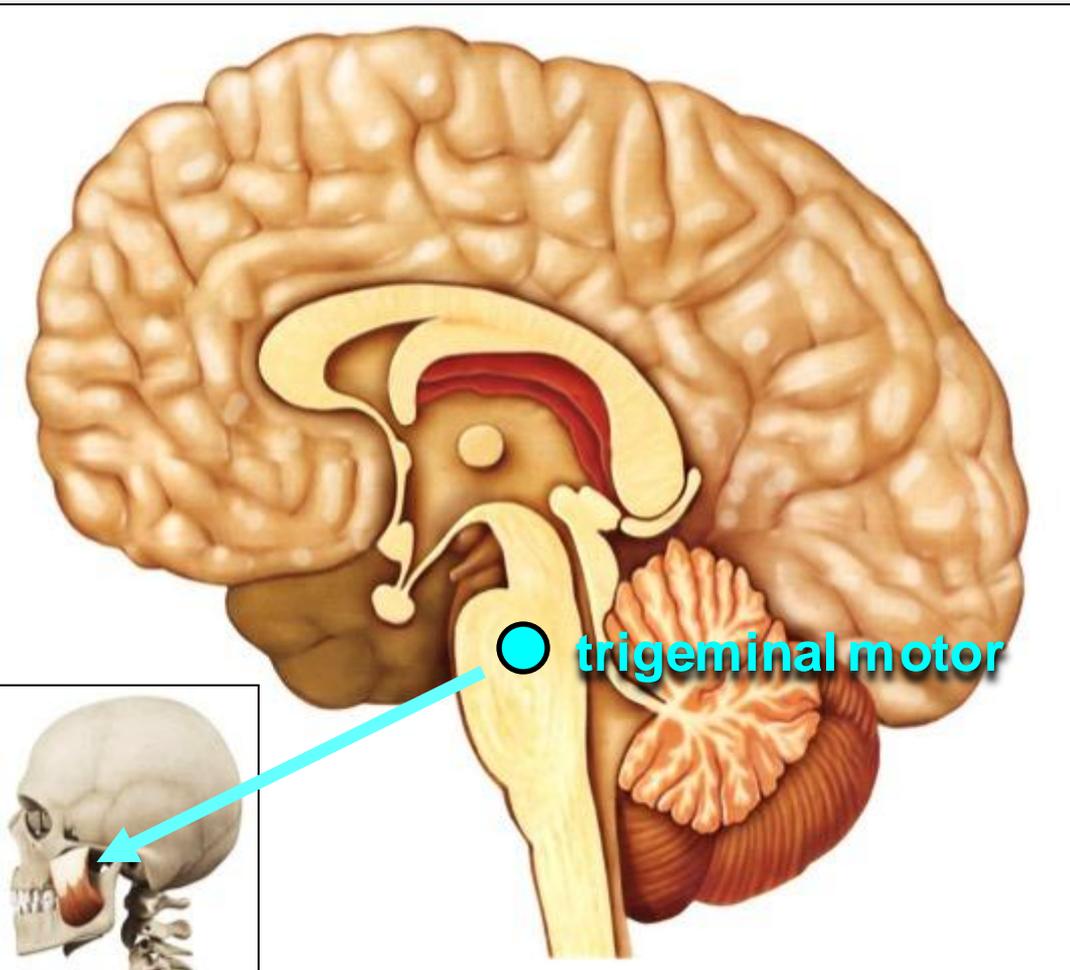
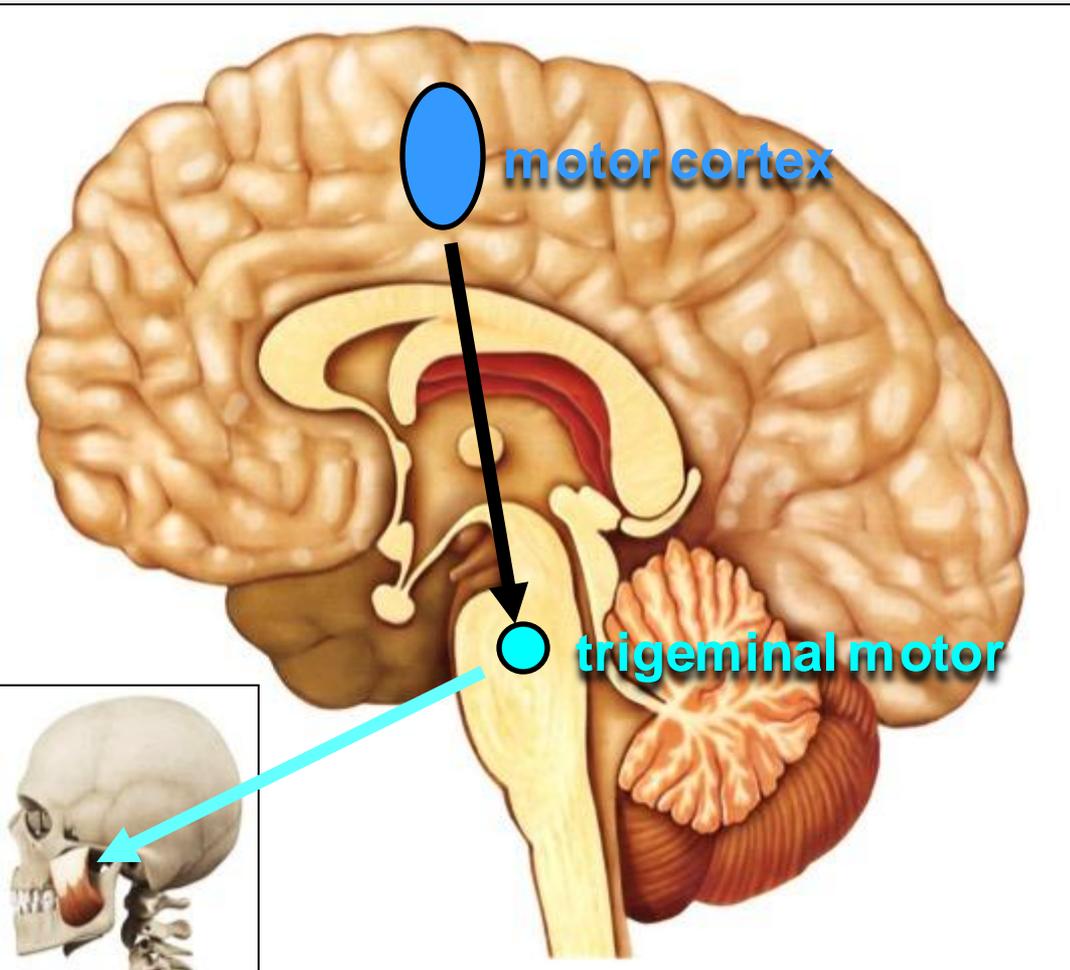


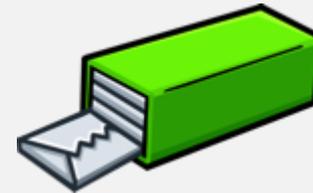
Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Neural Circuits

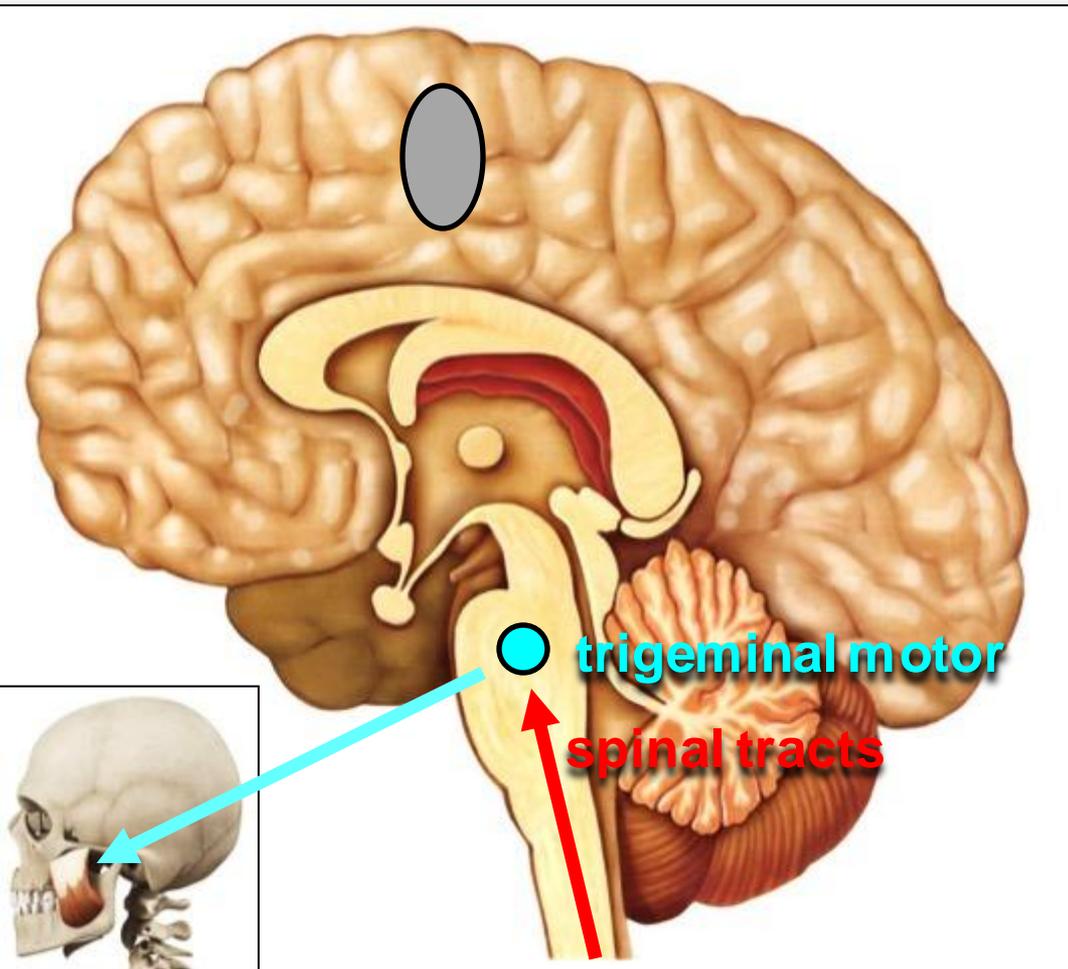


- **primary motor cortex**  
(volitional)



# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Non-Voluntary Neural Circuits



- primary motor cortex
- **spinal nociceptive tracts** (reflexive contraction)  
(Terman & Bonica, 2001)

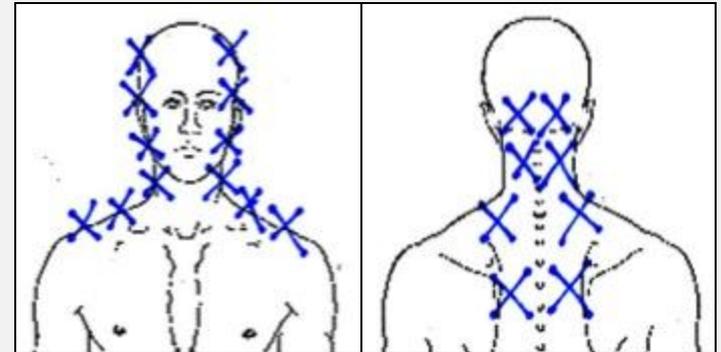
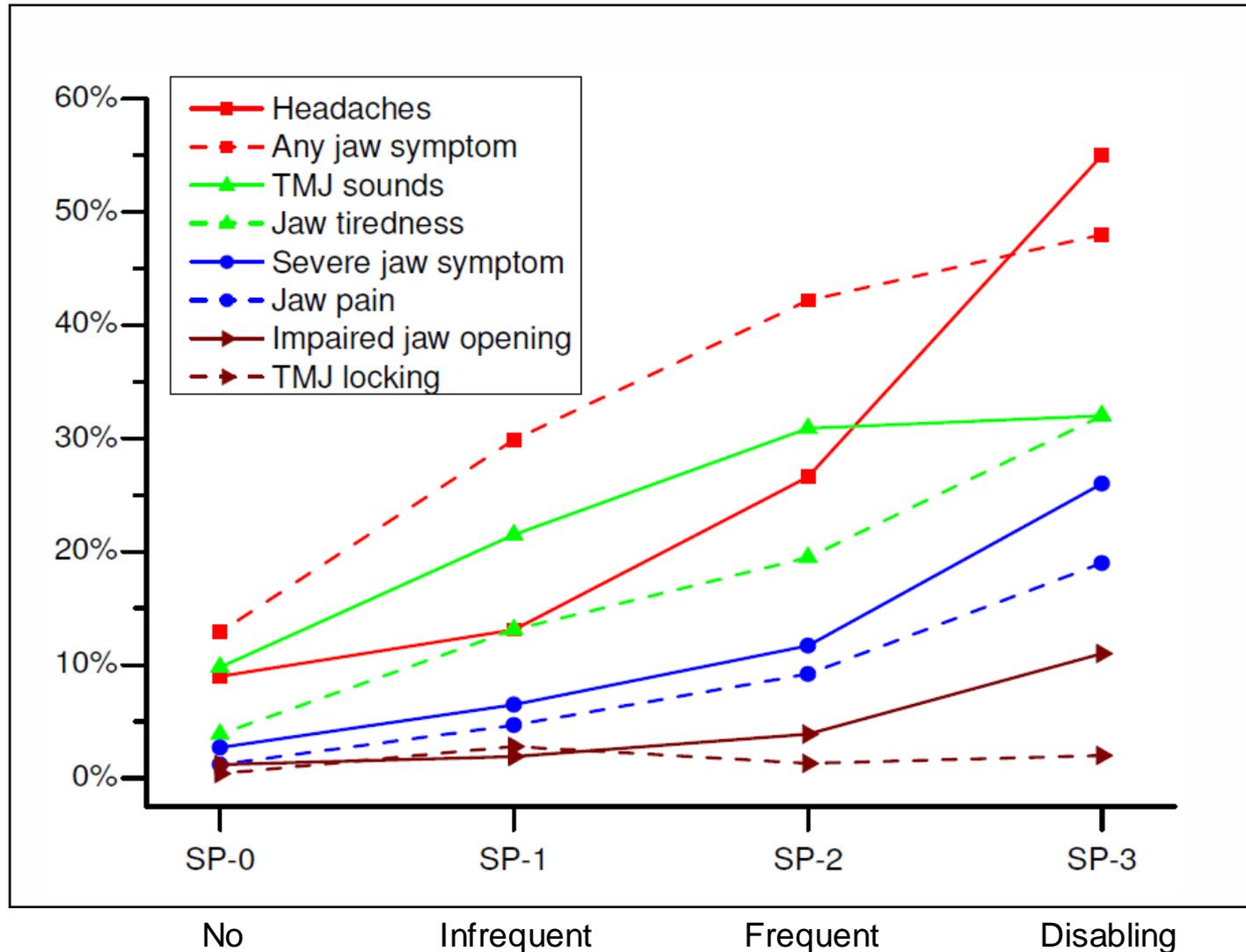


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Does a dose-response relation exist between spinal pain and temporomandibular disorders?

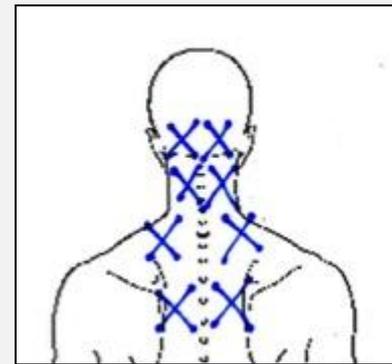
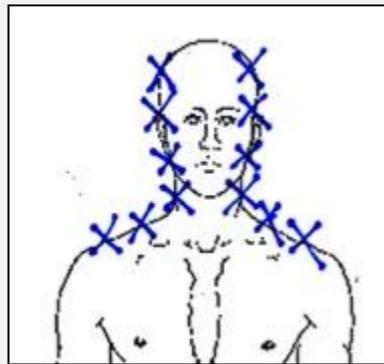
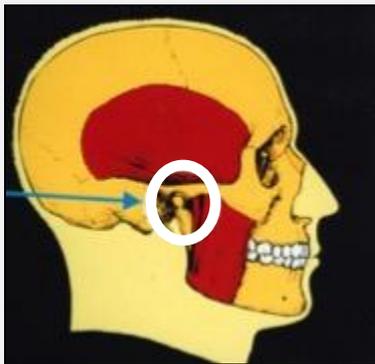
Wiesinger, Malaker, Englund & Wanman, 2009



# Temporomandibular Disorder and Comorbid Pain Conditions

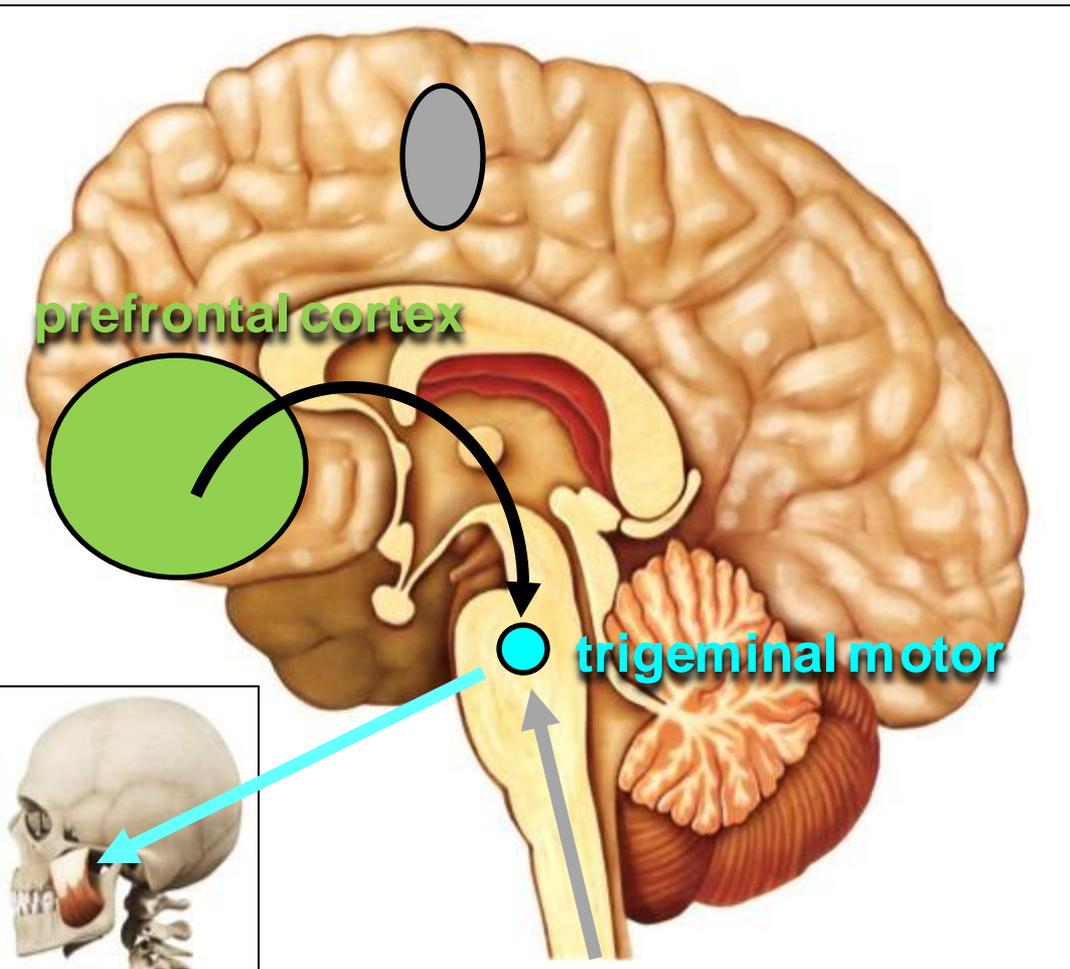
Lim P, Maxiner W, Kahn A  
JADA, Dec 2011

“Patients with TMD symptoms are often treated with a narrow dental paradigm while clinicians ignore co-existing pain conditions, resulting in treatment failure and perpetuation of the problem.”



# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Non-Voluntary Neural Circuits

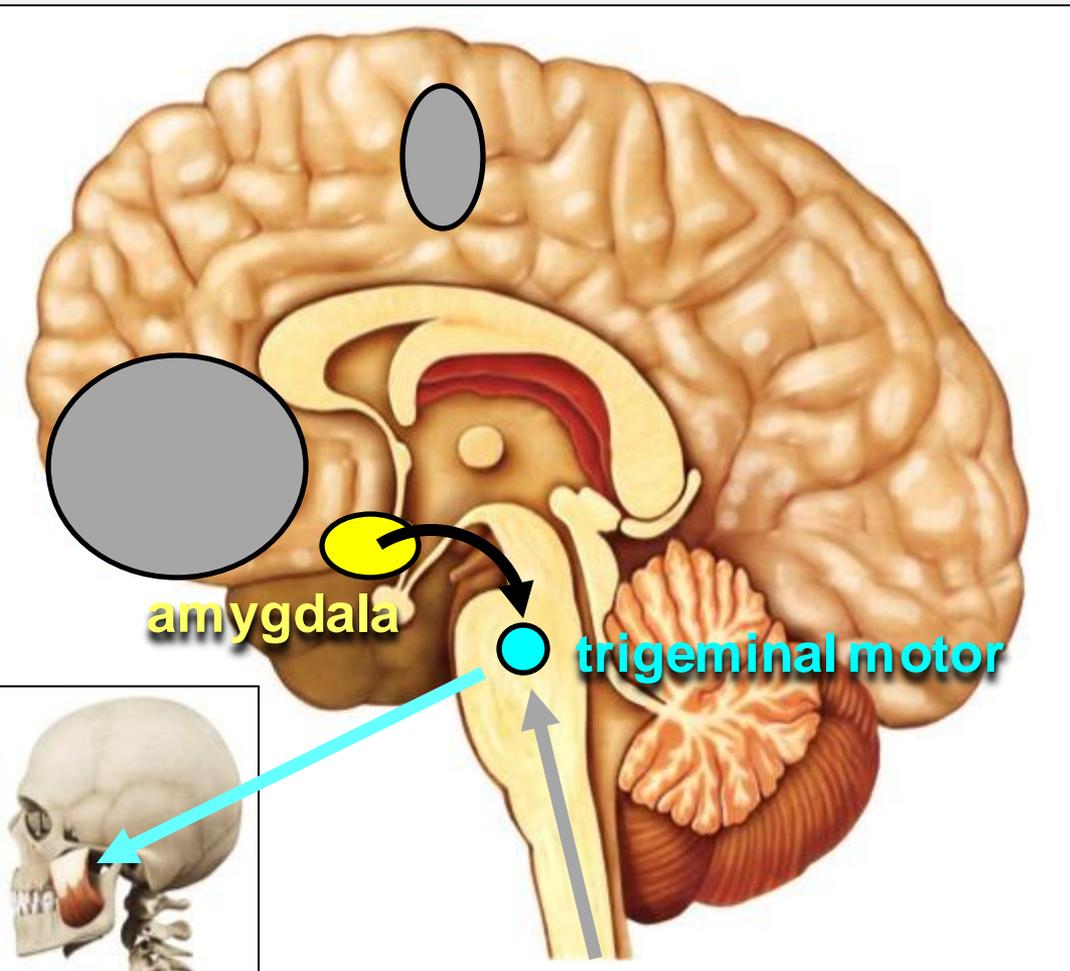


- primary motor cortex
- spinal nociceptive tracts
- **prefrontal cortex**  
(executive function)  
(Groenewegen & Uylings, 2000)



# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Non-Voluntary Neural Circuits



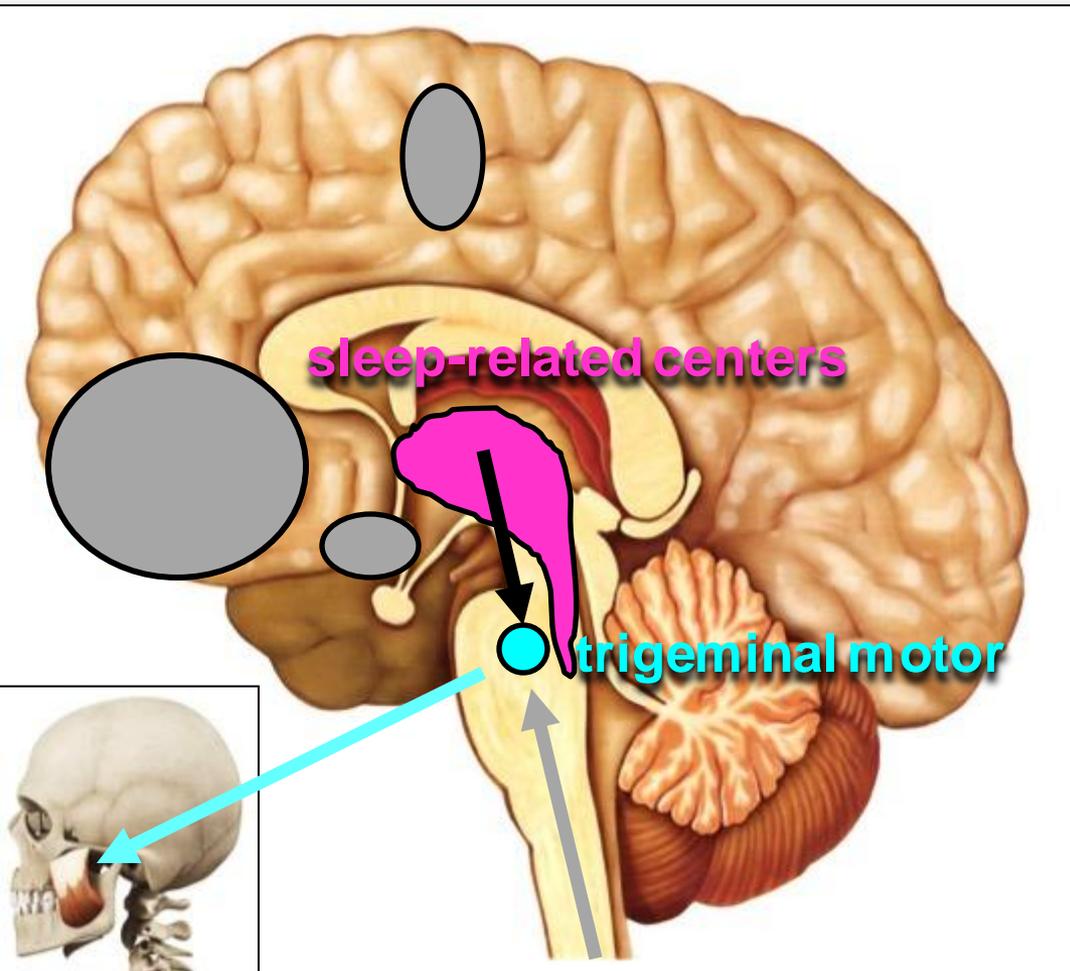
- primary motor cortex
- spinal nociceptive tracts
- prefrontal cortex
- **amygdala (limbic)**  
(valence, emotions)  
(Nieuwenhuys, 1996)



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Non-Voluntary Neural Circuits



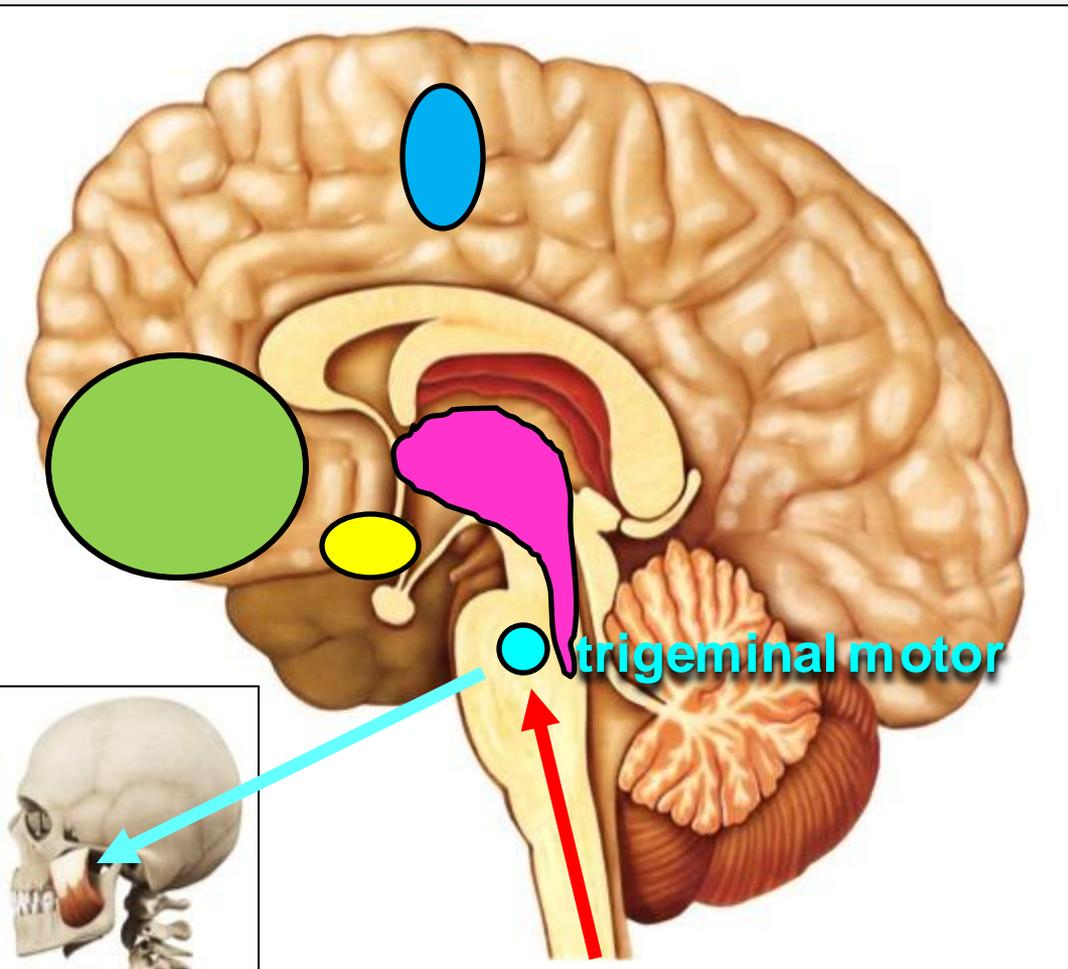
- primary motor cortex
- spinal nociceptive tracts
- prefrontal cortex
- amygdala (limbic)
- **sleep-related centers**  
(nocturnal bruxism)  
(Fay & Norgren, 1997)



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Trigeminal Motor Nucleus

## Areas Influencing Non-Voluntary Jaw Muscle Activity

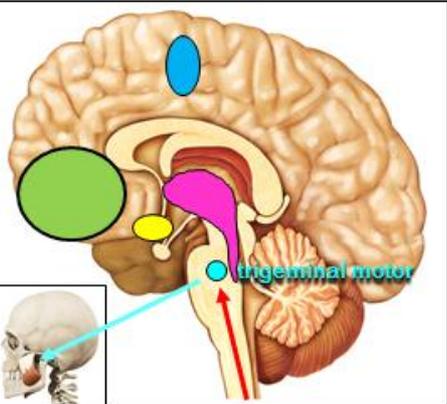


- **primary motor cortex**  
(volitional)
- ✓ **spinal nociceptive tracts**  
(reflexive contraction)
- ✓ **prefrontal cortex**  
(executive function)
- ✓ **amygdala (limbic)**  
(valence, emotions)
- ✓ **sleep-related centers**  
(nocturnal bruxism)

# Trigeminal Motor Considerations

## Other Factors

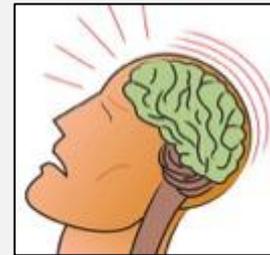
**Brain Areas & CN V Motor Activity**



- **primary motor cortex** (volitional)
- **spinal nociceptive tracts** (reflexive contraction)
- **prefrontal cortex** (executive function)
- **amygdala (limbic)** (valence, emotions)
- **sleep-related centers** (nocturnal bruxism)

Graphics Courtesy of: Dr. J Johnson

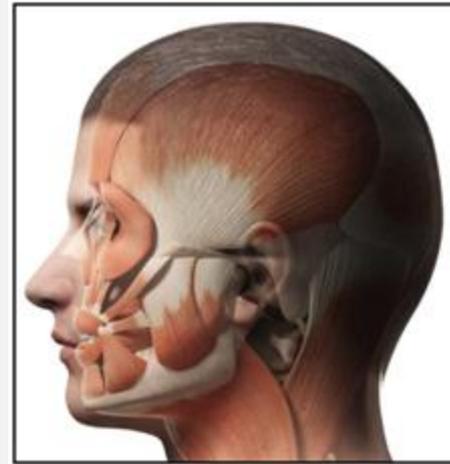
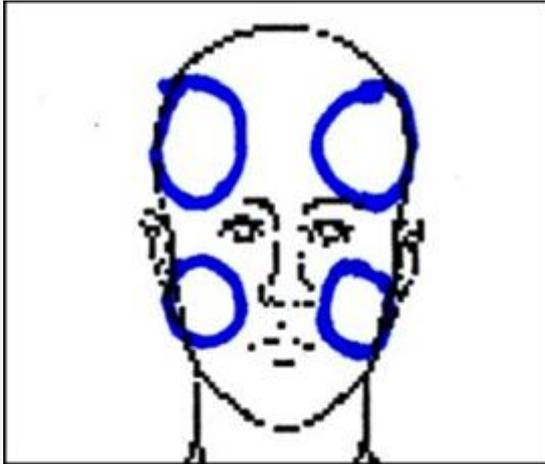
- TBI effects



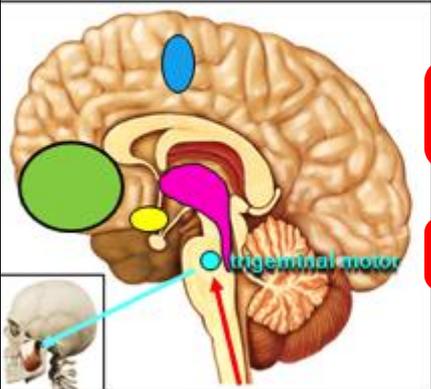
- medications
  - antidopaminergic
  - sympathomimetic



# Our Patient...Why?

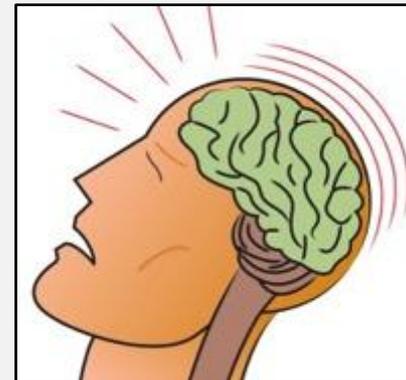


### Brain Areas & CN V Motor Activity

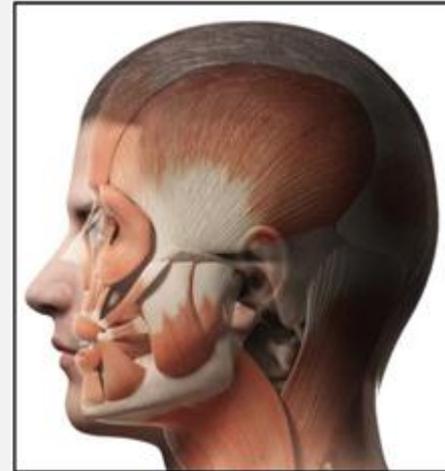
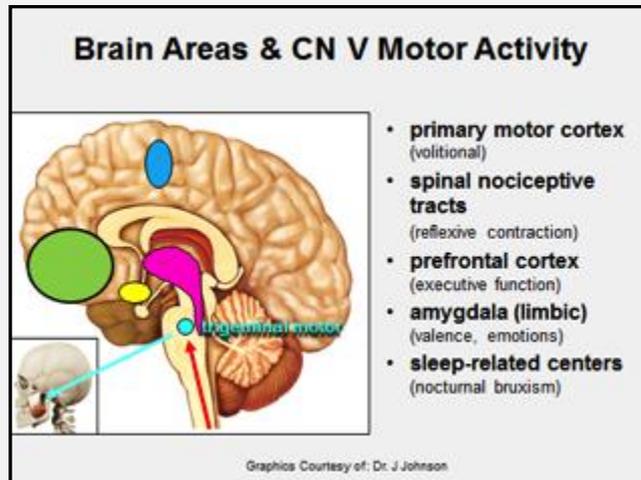


- **primary motor cortex**  
(volitional)
- **spinal nociceptive tracts**  
(reflexive contraction)
- **prefrontal cortex**  
(executive function)
- **amygdala (limbic)**  
(valence, emotions)
- **sleep-related centers**  
(nocturnal bruxism)

Graphics Courtesy of: Dr. J Johnson



# Pivotal Question



Can “peripheral” muscle and joint symptoms be effectively managed without an appreciation of “central” neural drive?

# Objectives

1. distinguish site vs. source of pain
2. describe brain regions that can influence non-voluntary jaw muscle activity
- 3. identify key patient characteristics that affect the outcome of therapy**



What?  
Why?  
**What else?**

# Key Patient Characteristics

## Factors Affecting TMD's - Onset & Outcomes

- physical or imaging findings are seldom predictive of onset or treatment outcomes of chronic TMD pain
1. other pain conditions, notably widespread pain  
(Aggarwal, Macfarlane, Farragher & McBeth, 2010)
  2. psychological attributes (Litt & Porto, 2013)
    - ↑ anxiety, depression, etc.
    - ↑ catastrophizing
    - poor coping skills
  3. poor sleep (Lei, Liu, Yap & Fu, 2015)



Graphic Courtesy of: Dr. J Johnson

# Key Patient Characteristics

## Factors Affecting TMD's - Onset & Outcomes

- ✓ other pain conditions, notably widespread pain
- ✓ psychological attributes
- ✓ poor sleep



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Common Characteristics

## TMD Patient Factors and OIF/OEF/OND Veterans

- Veterans Health Administration 2009-2011
  - 613,391 OIF/OEF/OND veterans & ICD 9 codes
  - 40.2% pain (head, neck and/or back)
  - 29.3% PTSD
  - 9.6% TBI
  - 6.0% polytrauma (pain, PTSD, TBI)

(Cifu, Taylor, Carne, Bidelspach, Sayer, Sholten & Campbell 2013)

- War Related Illness & Injury Study Center, New Jersey VA
  - 356 OIF/OEF patients, 2008-2010 chart review
  - 72 % pain
  - 62 % sleep

(Strong, Ray, Findley Torres, Pickett & Byrne 2014)

# Key Patient Characteristics

## Factors Affecting TMD's - Onset & Outcomes

- ✓ other pain conditions, notably widespread pain
- ✓ psychological attributes
- ✓ poor sleep

In the absence of clear, contributory pathology, do not pursue invasive therapies if these patient characteristics are not adequately considered.



# Key Patient Characteristics

## Factors Affecting TMD's - Onset & Outcomes

*Consider as therapeutic targets...*

1. other pain conditions
2. psychological attributes
3. poor sleep



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Sleep



Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

**“Sleep is medicine.”**

Jessica Johnson, 2012

# Our Patient...What else?

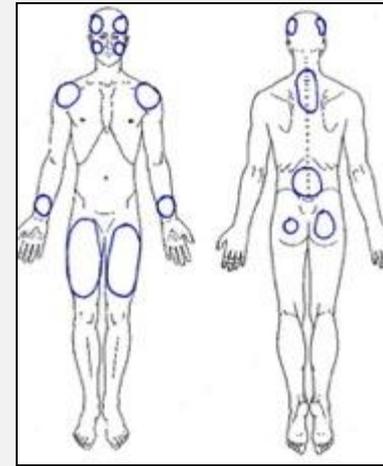
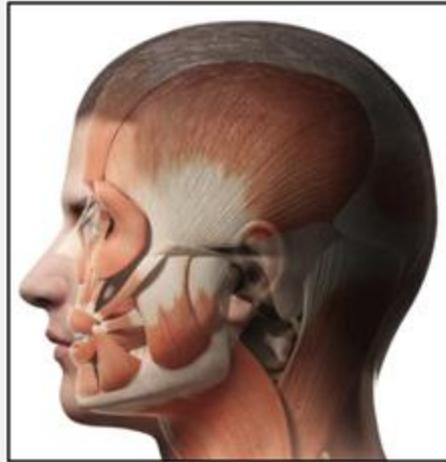
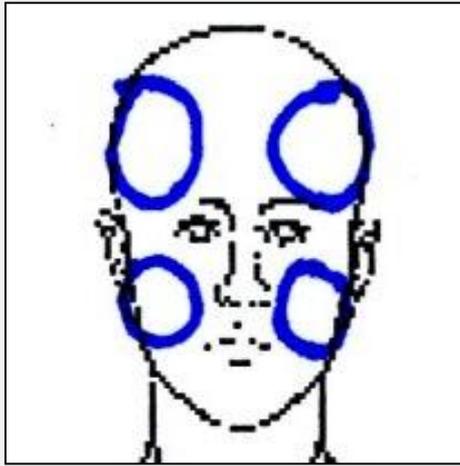


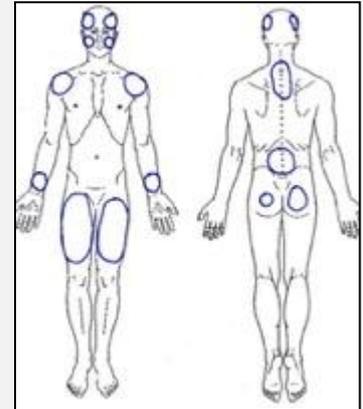
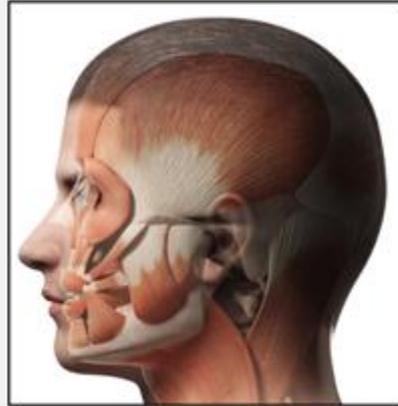
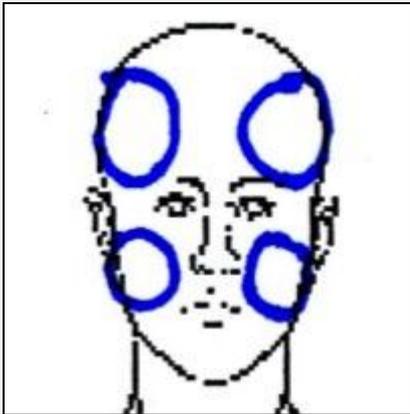
Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

key characteristics:

- other pain = many sites, poor control
- affect = ↑ stress, anger
- sleep = poor

# Our Patient

What? Why? What else?



**What?** (site-source) = masticatory muscle

**Why?** (neural drive) = other pain, affect, TBI?

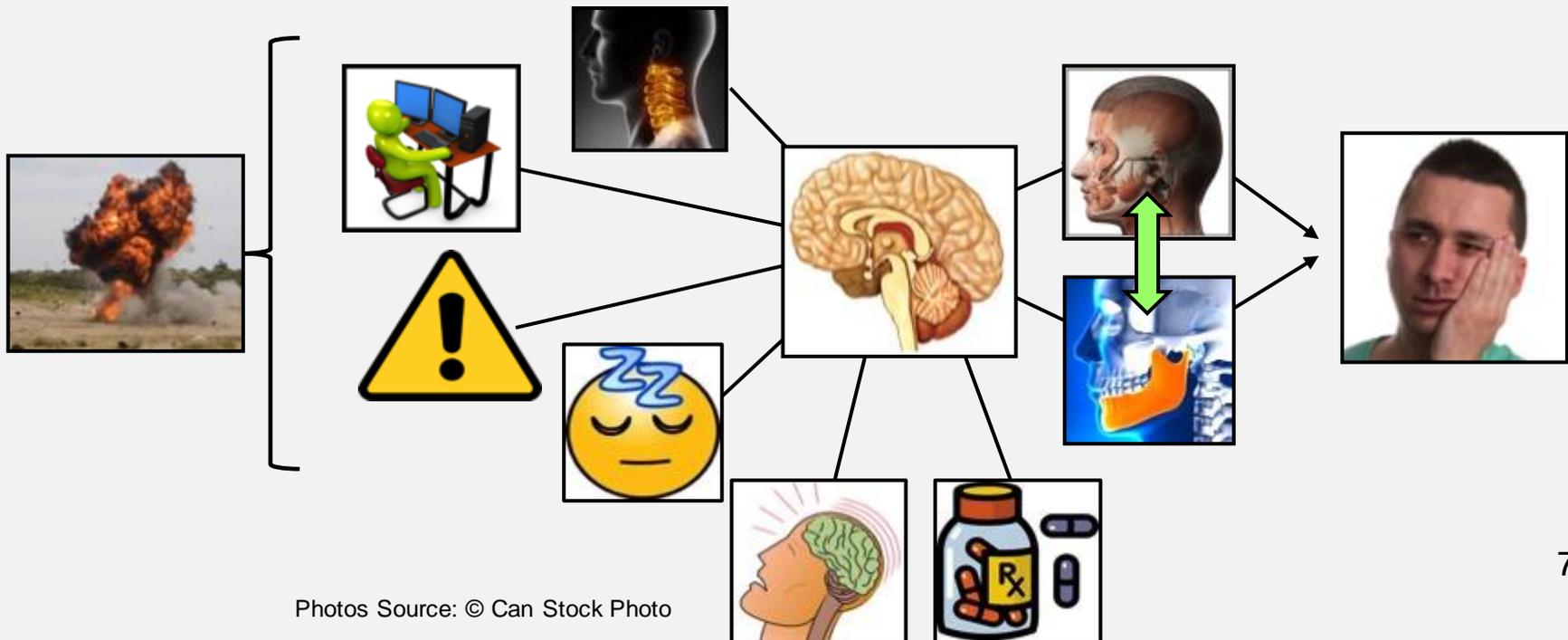
**What else?** (keys) = other pain, affect, sleep

**Our Outcome?** = no improvement...could  
not overcome comorbid CNS drivers

# Summary

## TMD's and the TBI Patient

- determine site vs. source
- non-voluntary masticatory muscle activity → neural drive (systems modeling)



# Summary

## TMD's and the TBI Patient

- key patient characteristics
  1. other pain
  2. psychological attributes
  3. sleep

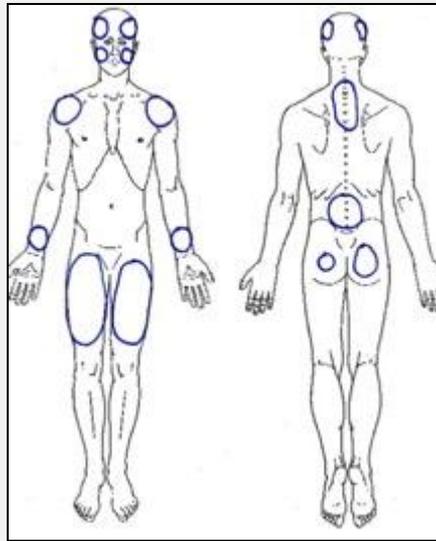


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

# Conclusion

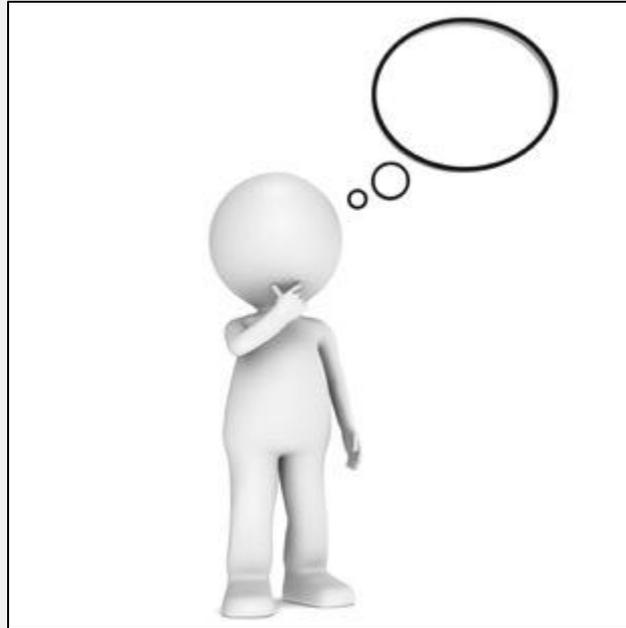


Photo Source: © Can Stock Photo

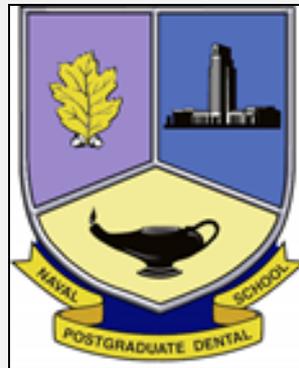
physician  
physician assistant  
dentist  
psychologist  
physical therapist  
nurse  
social worker  
counselor



What?  
Why?  
What else?

# Provider Resources

- Google: Naval Postgraduate Dental School
- use [wrnmmc.capmed.mil](http://wrnmmc.capmed.mil) link
- Departments: Orofacial Pain
- Resources
  - NPDS Orofacial Pain Center Exam Form (.pdf)
  - DOD OFP Phone Directory (.pdf)



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# Questions?

- Please submit your questions now via the question box located on the left side of the screen.



# Continuing Education Details

- In order to qualify for CEUs, the program evaluation and post test must be completed by **July 22, 2015** with a passing score of 80%.
- **VHA** participants:
  - Must be preregistered to complete the evaluation and post test in TMS.
  - Email [Christopher.white3@va.gov](mailto:Christopher.white3@va.gov) if you were unable to register before the webinar started.
  - Certificate of completion may be printed through TMS upon successful completion.
- **Non-VA** participants:
  - Complete and email the program's fillable PDF Non-VA Evaluation Form to [EESEPC@va.gov](mailto:EESEPC@va.gov)

# Save the Date

## **VA/DVBIC TBI Clinical Grand Rounds Webinar:**

Visual Dysfunction Associated with Traumatic Brain Injury

Dr. Suzanne Wickum, OD, FAAO

August 7, 2015

12:00-1:15 p.m. (ET)

\* Available via Adobe Connect or in person at Brooke Army Medical Center if local.  
Look for more information on the DVBIC website or DVBIC and DCoE Facebook page soon!

# VA/DVBIC TBI Clinical Grand Rounds

## POCs

- **DOD:**

Sherray Holland, [Sherray.L.Holland.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Sherray.L.Holland.ctr@mail.mil) and  
LCDR Cathleen Davies, [Cathleen.A.Davies2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Cathleen.A.Davies2.mil@mail.mil)

- **VHA and all other federal partners:**

Christopher White, [Christopher.white3@va.gov](mailto:Christopher.white3@va.gov)