Common Causes of Facial pain

Dental Disorders
Sinus Disease
TMJ dysfunction
Cx dysfunction
Myofascial Trigger points
Eye disorders
Lesions of the oropharynx/posterior 1/3 of tongue
Trigeminal Neuralgia
Chronic Paroxysmal hemicrania

Serious disorders

Carcinoma of the mouth, sinuses, nasopharynx, tonsils, tongue, larynx and parotid
Temporal arteritis
SOL in orbit/base of the brain

Refer

Refer out when:
Severe trigeminal neuralgia
+ve neurological signs - impaired corneal reflex, sensation loss in trigeminal dermatone, facial weakness, hearing loss ipsilateral to neuralgia
Possible need for drainage of sinusitis
Dental infection/other dental problems

Pain Analysis

Site	Cause
Pain in the Ear	Referral from skin, teeth, tonsils, pharynx, larynx, neck
Tenderness over maxilla	Sinusitis, dental abscess, carcinoma
Character	
Sharp, severe pain in divisions of the Vth nerve	Trigeminal Neuralgia
Dull,aching quality	Infections of teeth, mastoid and ear
Precipitating Factors	
Food/chewing	Dental Abscess, salivary gland disorder, TMD, jaw claudication
Touch of the skin	Trigeminal Neuralgia
Associated symptoms	
Otorrhoea/hearing loss	ear/mastoid
Nasal obstruction + rhinorrhoea	Maxillary sinusitis/carcinoma of the maxillary antrum
Proximal muscle weakness + Pain	PMR + Temporal arteritis

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Examinations

Health status & Behaviour

Palpation of face and neck - parotid gland, eyes, regional lymph nodes, Trps + skin

TMJ + Cx spine for joint dysfunction

Nose, mouth, pharynx + ears

Teeth - percussion of teeth

Palpation of sinuses for tenderness

CN - V, III, IX

Investigations

Rule out suspected MS + Tumour in neuralgia

- MRI, CT

Facial pain in Children

Trauma/Dental problems

Sinusitis - especially with bilateral mucopurulent rhirrorhoea >10 days

Facial Pain in the Elderly

Consider:

Trigeminal neuralgia

Herpes Zoster

Carcinoma

Glaucoma

TMD

Cx Spondylosis

Glossitis

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