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**TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA ASSOCIATION  
NORTHEAST FLORIDA SUPPORT GROUP**

**TIC TALK**



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**NOVEMBER 2004**

The National TN Conference was very informative and was attended by close to 400 people. I'll have much information to share in our upcoming meetings, and videos of the sessions will be available early next year. I attended along with Charlie Doolittle and his wife Eva. Also the Kelly's were there. They were going back to Pennsylvania and will return here in February. They both looked great and Rita says that her relief from her pain is all related to her diet and vitamin regime that she shared with us last year. We'll have her review it with us once again when they return. Diet and vitamins again were mentioned many times during the conference.

Many thanks to everyone who attended our October meeting. We had a good turnout of 26 people to hear Dr. Gerald Cioffi D.M.D., M.S. I'll give a very brief overview of his presentation and in the next newsletter; I'll cover it in more detail. Again, I'm on a short time line, we're on our way up north for Thanksgiving tomorrow morning and we just got home from the Jaguar game----- that we lost.

Dr. Cioffi specializes in dental care for patients with special needs such as TN. As most of us know TN pain occurs in the 5<sup>th</sup> cranial nerve, the Trigeminal nerve. The Trigeminal nerve is responsible for the sensations of touch, temperature and pain in the facial area. Many times the pain looks like, and acts like a toothache. The difference is that the TN pain radiates while a toothache does not. Tooth pain can be localized, and TN pain cannot. This helps the dentist discern if it's TN or a tooth problem. Many of the dentists are not familiar enough with the TN pain and shy away from making the diagnosis of TN, sometimes causing the patient to lose teeth and still not have relief of the pain. Dr. Cioffi works with the dentists in the Jacksonville area to keep them informed about TN and it's treatment options. He stated that as the medical profession learns more about the nervous system, they are becoming more educated with problems such as TN.

Dr. Cioffi talked about the treatment options the drugs and the surgical treatments. I'll not review these now as we will go into more detail on these with the information that I received from the TN Conference in Orlando.

Dr Cioffi stressed the importance of good dental hygiene and that toothaches not treated can put the TN pain out of control. He and his staff know how to treat the patient so as not to trigger the TN pain. Right now what is needed is a breakthrough to understanding what is happening with this nerve to identify the best treatment

Questions followed Dr. Cioffi's presentation. I'll provide more details in the next newsletter combined with information from the conference.

Our next meeting on Saturday, December 4 is our Annual Holiday get together. It will be great to have good attendance at this meeting also, especially since I'm in charge of refreshments. Charlie Doolittle has volunteered to challenge us again with one of his quizzes. Everyone be sure to ask Charlie what famous person he sat with for lunch at the conference.

I have handouts from the conference that I will get copies made for everyone. While much of the information was on the same procedures and medications that we are all taking, there is one new medication that they hope to have approved next year, also some alternative treatments and vitamin and health regimes were covered. And BOTOX! for pain management.

Florence Schwaner, a fellow TN patient who is a member of our group and unable to come to the meetings, has volunteered to help with the telephone calling. Thanks Florence.

Sorry for this quick newsletter, I wanted to get it in the mail prior to going up north for Thanksgiving.

**NEXT MEETING Saturday, December 4, 2004  
2-4 P.M Memorial Hospital**

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**THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA TNA SUPPORT GROUP  
MEETS THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
FROM 2P.M. TO P.M. IN THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, JACKSONVILLE, FL.**

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**December 4 IS OUR NEXT MEETING DATE**



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