Dear

“Without warning the mysterious predator struck. The electrical, tingling sensations I initially experienced were no indicator of what was now attacking my face. The electric-like shocks began slowly – as quick stabs and bolts of electricity. As they increased, the shocks came in waves of intensity. It hurt to breathe, to brush my teeth, to touch my face, to smile, to even eat. I was caught without a diagnosis or appropriate treatment for the dreadful, disabling pain in my face.” This is one of the many stories we hear at our local TNA Support Group meetings. People in our community – people like you and I – are suffering from trigeminal neuralgia or neuropathic facial pain.

I had never heard of the disorder until it struck me (my spouse, etc.) – and I bet you never heard of it either. Did you know that:

- TN is known as the most painful condition known to humankind and is therefore often called the suicide disease
- It is a disorder of the 5th – and largest – of the cranial nerves that supply feeling to your face.
- There is no known cause
- There is no known cure
- It is a chronic pain condition that becomes more painful as a person ages

Neuropathic facial pain, including TN, is often misdiagnosed and inappropriately treated…..a patient may undergo several root canals and tooth extractions without relief. A typical patient will see 2 dentists and 3 doctors before receiving an accurate diagnosis and treatment. This process usually takes from 5 to 7 years.

The good news is that patients have access to information, support and resources through the non-profit, 501(e)(3) Trigeminal Neuralgia Association (TNA). Their website at www.endthepain.org helps people around the world and local support groups, like the one right here in (___________________), provide face-to-face support and hope to those who are in despair.

TNA serves over 33,000 patients and their families as well as the medical community. We are contacted by over 250 new patients each month! We have (______) in our community! The association also provides education and outreach to healthcare professionals and encourages medical research.

This is a silent epidemic and we need your help. Members are our partners in delivering TNAs mission. The more members, the more powerful our ability to deliver patient support, education and advocate research. Become part of the power of partnership. By joining TNA, you will help sustain both the local support group as well as the association. Join TNA today.

Thanks for your consideration and please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions or want more information.