## **Neuro** *Images*

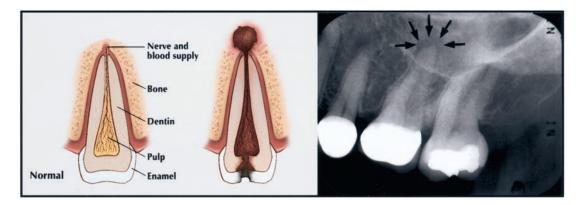


Figure. Drawing of tooth anatomy and radiograph shows periapical radiolucency in tooth 14, indicative of an irreversible pulpitis.

## Tic douloureux or "tic dentaire"

Peter K. Kubitz, DO, Eelco F.M. Wijdicks, MD, and Charles F. Bolton, MD, Rochester, Minnesota

Patients with trigeminal neuralgia often present to a neurologist after undergoing ineffective dental procedures.1 The converse occurs as well. A 50-year-old woman had been seen by a dentist and was referred to a neurologist for further management of tri-

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Eelco F.M. Wijdicks, Mayo Clinic, Department of Neurology, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905; e-mail: wijde@mayo.edu

geminal neuralgia. She presented with a 1-year history of intermittent, lancinating pain in her upper left jaw, precipitated by cold liquids and chewing, and lasting in bouts of up to 1 hour. She was referred for evaluation of trigeminal neuralgia. Tapping a left-upper molar, however, precipitated her pain, and radiographs were diagnostic (figure). Following a root canal procedure, her symptoms abated entirely. Thus, inspection and tapping of teeth, with radiographs if indicated, should be a routine part of the evaluation of trigeminal neuralgia.2

- 1. Zakrzewska JM. Diagnosis and differential diagnosis of trigeminal neuralgia. Clin J Pain 2002;95:259-266.
- 2. Kumar GK, Vartanian AJ, Alvi A. When is facial pain trigeminal neuralgia? Postgrad Med 1998;104:149-151,155-156.



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