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### Literature Abstract

#### UK dentists' experience of iatrogenic trigeminal nerve injuries in relation to routine dental procedures: Why, when and how often?

Authors surveyed the experience of a group of United Kingdom (UK) clinicians on local anesthetic (LA)-related trigeminal nerve injuries (TNIs). The clinicians were sampled from those who attended 12 UK study days. A total of 79% of attendees completed a questionnaire ( $n = 415$ ). The clinicians had a mean 19 years of clinical experience. Among them were general dental practitioners (GDPs) ( $n = 290$ ; 64%) and oral surgery specialists (OS) ( $n = 125$ ; 36%). Authors estimated the incidence of TNIs for the UK general dental practice workforce to be 3,770 TNIs per year or 0.13 TNI per clinician per year. The incidence of TNIs increased for OS to 0.39 TNI per specialist per year. A majority of TNIs reported by GDP and OS were temporary (68% or 61%, respectively). LA-related injuries were most prevalent with GDPs while TNIs associated with third molar surgery were more common with OS. Authors suggested that the results indicated the incidence of LA-related nerve injuries and the frequency of permanent injuries higher than previously thought. They suggested that clinicians consider using high concentration buccal infiltrations to replace mandibular block anesthesia. Patients should also report any altered sensation that persisted for more than 48 hours.

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