Pain Free with Trigeminal Neuralgia

CARLA M.
Adventurous Spirit, Loving and Joyful Grandmother
Taking care of two grandchildren, the last thing Carla has time for, especially when it’s excruciating and debilitating, is pain. She described her pain as a sharp and jabbing electrical current running through her face. She says before Gamma Knife® treatment the pain in her face could be triggered by anything from brushing her teeth to saying a word involving the letters “b” or “p”. Often even thinking about the pain would trigger it.

For Carla, the real challenge was getting to the correct diagnosis. Like many people suffering with the debilitating pain of Trigeminal Neuralgia, she mistook her condition as originating from her teeth. She went as far as having two teeth extracted a common occurrence with Trigeminal Neuralgia sufferers. Unfortunately, the pain persisted.

As a result of an unfortunate car accident in 2011, in which she was hospitalized, Carla was given an MRI that revealed she had Multiple Sclerosis. This discovery soon led to her team of doctors diagnosing Trigeminal Neuralgia as the cause of her face pain. Her neurologist prescribed medications that would suppress the pain briefly. As her pain persisted and worsened she would be prescribed higher and higher dosages, until eventually, the medications were useless.

That’s when she was introduced to Gamma Knife® as a viable solution. She was told that this single day, non-invasive procedure could drastically reduce, if not totally end her pain. The team at South Sound Gamma Knife® at St. Josephs in Tacoma, WA prepared her for the procedure. “I was a bit nervous about being confined, however the staff were all very supportive before, during and after the procedure. They explained elaborately what to expect so there were no surprises leaving little for me to feel anxious about. In fact, they even made me laugh.”

During the day of surgery, Carla checked in and got fitted for the head frame, had an MRI taken to determine the exact location for treatment and received the procedure. She understood it could take a few months for treatment to take effect.

Before Gamma Knife®, she was taking 6 pills a day and still experiencing severe pain. After only 5 months since surgery, Carla is feeling remarkably better. And that means she can now shower her grandchildren with love and attention.

For more information on the benefits of Gamma Knife®, visit gammaknife.com