

## Microvascular Decompression for Trigeminal Neuralgia: Technical Consideration

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The first choice of management for the trigeminal neuralgia (TN) is medical treatment. However, most of the patient requires surgery due to drug resistance. The only curable method to the TN is microvascular decompression (MVD).

I will share our experience over the past 32 years (1978 to 2010). I divide the whole operation into 8 steps: position, incision, craniectomy, dural incision, cerebellar retraction and exposure of 5th nerve, recognition of offending vessel, decompression and closure.

We have done of 211 cases of MVD for TN. Long term follow up more than 3 years was achieved in 126 patients. Total pain control was presented in 106 patients (84.2%). However, 20 patients (15.8%) suffered from pain after MVD. We have no mortality, but experienced 3 cases of wound infection, 3 cases of CSF leakage and one case of transient facial palsy.

MVD is an effective and logical treatment of TN. It presents high success rate. However it is highly technical and needs a expertise. Mistakes are absolutely not permitted. Avoidence of complication and recurrence of pain, should be the goal of every neurosurgeon.

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