



Key Questions for a Neurologist

- How many years have you been treating people with trigeminal neuralgia (TN)?
- How many TN patients have you had in the past 5 years, and how many do you currently have?
- What do you typically do if your first line of treatment doesn't work?
- In addition to prescribing medications, are you open to your patients considering surgical procedures and complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) (e.g., acupuncture, medical cannabis, meditation and mindfulness, upper cervical chiropractic care, and others)?
- Have you referred TN patients to neurosurgeons or CAM providers, and if so, what percentage of your TN patients have been referred to other healthcare providers?

Keep in mind...

- If the doctor does not answer these questions to your satisfaction, then you might want to consider a different physician.
- The neurologist and neurosurgeon should take a good history of your symptoms and ask enough questions to be able to come up with a differential diagnosis (e.g., possible causes), especially because some procedures, such as MVD, are only appropriate with a certain type of TN.
- The neurologist or neurosurgeon should have TN or MVD listed as a focus or subspecialty under their name. When searching, include those words to make sure that you find those with substantial experience, even within a multidisciplinary program.