The episodes of intense pain may occur paroxysmally. To describe the pain sensation, patients may describe a trigger area on the face so sensitive that touching or even air currents can trigger an episode; however, in many patients the pain is generated spontaneously without any apparent stimulation. It affects lifestyle as it can be triggered by common activities such as eating, talking, shaving and brushing teeth. Wind, high pitched sounds, loud noises such as concerts or crowds, chewing, and talking can aggravate the condition in many patients. 

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Orofacial pain can have a huge socioeconomic burden and psychosocial impact. It manifests as reduced quality of life, depression and disrupted relationships; it also impacts work capacity. Economic burden arises from the pharmacological management of pain, cost of health insurance and loss of employment. Lack of up-to-date knowledge among clinicians regarding the diagnosis and management of orofacial pain conditions can lead to misdiagnosis. Orofacial pain can be classified as acute or chronic pain, based on the duration of onset.