

Toothaches of non odontogenic origin

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A toothache of non-odontogenic origin is pain felt in a tooth with no clinical indication of pulpal or periodontal involvement. From the total dental visits with a chief complaint of a toothache, 3% are of a non-odontogenic origin and 9% are a mix of odontogenic and non-odontogenic origin (Yatani et al 2014).

Non-odontogenic toothaches may represent a wide variety of pain types: neuropathic pain such as trigeminal neuralgia, neurovascular conditions like migraine headaches, visceral pain such as sinusitis and/or a musculoskeletal pain such as myofascial pain. Case reports of headaches mimicking toothache have also been published. However, toothache of non-odontogenic origin may also be due to a more life threatening disease like cancer and/or a heart attack. Incorrect diagnosis of these conditions usually leads to unnecessary dental procedures: root canal therapy and/or dental extractions. The end result is a patient experiencing no change or an aggravation of the pre - existent toothache. In some cases, due to the extensive attempts to palliate the pain, the patient ends with complications including pain in a larger area.

At the end of this presentation, the attendee should be able to learn the main clinical features of a toothache of non-odontogenic origin, and how this pain can be mistaken as a true toothache. Clinical cases of mistaken toothache of odontogenic and non-odontogenic origin will be presented. Differential diagnoses for each case will be discussed. Treatment recommendations and the need of referral to other healthcare professionals will also be outlined.

Biography:

Hernández graduated from Dentistry at the University of Concepción, Chile (1992). She completed her TMD/Orofacial Pain Residency (2002), Masters in Medical Sciences (2003) and, Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree (2005) at the University of Alberta, Canada. She became a Diplomate of the American Board of Orofacial Pain, (2004) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain (2005) in which she is now a council member. She belongs to several other professional pain organizations. Currently, Dr. Hernández maintains a busy private practice; she is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Oral Medicine Graduate Program, University of Alberta.