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Herpes Zoster mimicking odontogenic pain

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The *Varicella zoster* virus can cause two infectious diseases. The primary infection of this virus leads to Chicken pox and it goes into a latent period until it reveals itself again. When secondarily shown, it is called Herpes Zoster. Herpes Zoster can usually be seen between T-3 and L-2 of immunodepressant patients but in 13%, it is seen in the trigeminal nerve branch. During the prodromal stage, burning sensation, itching, and sharp pain can be experienced unilaterally where the nerve branch is distributed. Patients can also express tooth pain in this stage. After 2-4 days the acute stage begins with its characteristic unilateral macule showing vesicle formation. In this stage fever and fatigue can be experienced. Continuous pain even after the acute stage is called postherpetic neuralgia: deep pain and burning sensation can be expressed by the patient. The sequelae of this disease consists of rare osteomyelitis, necrosis of the jaws, or loss of teeth.

Case

45 year old male was referred to the Periodontic department for periodontal treatment in the upper left molar area. Upon oral examination, severe spontaneous pain on the upper left 1st molar was expressed by the patient. Thus he was referred to the Endodontic department. There was nothing significant in clinical and radiographic examinations. 3 days later, vesicles were seen in the left upper and lower lips and given the impression of Herpes Zoster, Acyclovir was prescribed for a week and the symptoms were gone. But the symptoms were apparent once again after stopping the Acyclovir intake. Therefore the patient is currently under treatment for postherpetic neuralgia.