



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE PHYSICIAN GROUP

3/31/16

Margaret Bieser, has given me consent to discuss her clinical condition, and she hopes that this would bring further enlightenment and clarification to her case. She would like to use her clinical condition to inspire others in faith.

She is a 69-year-old lady who I initially saw in clinic on 10/1/2015 when she presented with severe incapacitating traumatic right facial pain. I diagnosed her with trigeminal neuralgia. Pain was incapacitating. I started her on medications for nerve pain, she required extremely high doses, but even that was not helping. She could not talk, she could not eat, and she could not even touch the side of her face. Brushing her teeth was impossible. She can only eat or drink through a straw, but then even minimal sucking type movements caused severe pain. We did an MRI of her brain and orbits, with and without contrast that was unremarkable. She was seen by an oral surgeon no lesions noted. On her exam I noted severe trigger points set off by even minimal light touch on areas of the right jaw and peri orbital region, basically a V2 and V3 distribution of the trigeminal nerve. She could not smile or stick out her tongue because of the pain. Sensation was hyper on the side of her face and mouth. There was some swelling right side of the face, no changes in color, no masses or lymph nodes palpated, no rashes or skin lesions noted on the face in her ear or in the mouth. Normal vascular exam of head and neck to auscultation and palpation. Hearing and vision were normal. Motor strength, sensory testing and coordination were normal. Her neurologic exam was otherwise unremarkable. I diagnosed her with severe trigeminal neuralgia.

We tried numerous medications, most with significant side effects at high doses. She was able to tolerate Tegretol but that required taking 1-2 pills every 3-4 hours, just missing one dosage had severe consequences. Lyrica and gabapentin did not help. I saw her in clinic every few weeks. The pain was intolerable. From her research she was able to find a neurosurgeon in Houston who we felt could perform a new procedure to help alleviate the pain. We scheduled her for an appointment in Houston.

Before she could attend that appointment, she had what she describes as a miracle intercession from St. Sharbel, after receiving a blessing from his relics.

She called me on the phone and told my staff, that her pain was gone, she wanted advice on how to come off the medications. Of course I was shocked, her presentation was certainly the worst pain I had seen in a patient in a long time. For her to be pain-free was amazing. I instructed her how to taper down on the medication. Pain remained gone. When I saw her back in clinic on 3/22/16 she looked like a new woman. Her neurologic exam was normal. Facial strength, sensation, vision, hearing, speech, and chewing/swallowing was normal. There are no trigger points any longer on her face. Her pain was gone. She could eat, wash her face, brush her teeth. Now living a normal life without pain. We were happy to cancel the neurosurgical appointment.

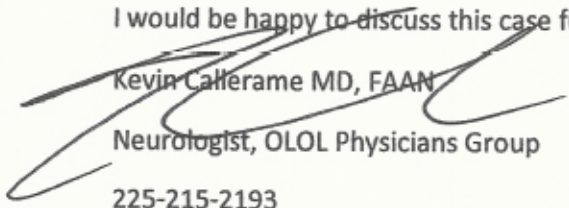
Of course there are cases of remissions of conditions reported for numerous diagnoses, but her neuralgia was one of the worse cases I have seen, and clearly was not responding to medications. I am amazed with the dramatic resolution of her condition. We had referred her for Neurosurgery and she



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was willing to undergo the potential risk of that treatment. Now she is her old self again and when I last saw her in clinic we had a long discussion about the intercession by Saint Sharbel in her condition.

I would be happy to discuss this case further if you desire.


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