

## Vestibular Schwannoma: A Rare Cause of Trigeminal Nerve Paraesthesia

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**Abstract :** This is a case report of a vestibular schwannoma presenting with numbness to the left lower lip and tongue and altered taste. The aim of this case is to raise awareness of differential diagnoses for trigeminal nerve paraesthesia and, hence, prompt thorough investigation. A 65-year-old male was referred to the Oral and Maxillofacial department regarding sudden-onset of numbness to his left lower lip and left tongue, with altered taste sensation subsequently developing. The patient was simultaneously being investigated for severe hearing loss in his left ear. On examination, there was altered sensation in the distribution of the left inferior alveolar nerve and left lingual nerve. There was no palpable cervical lymphadenopathy and no intra-oral lesions or dental cause for the symptoms. Due to his hearing loss in the left ear, the patient was sent for magnetic resonance imaging of the internal auditory meatus by the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department, revealing a 2.5cm mass within the left cerebellopontine angle presumed to be a vestibular schwannoma. This led to the diagnosis of trigeminal nerve compression by a medium vestibular schwannoma. Consequently, the patient was followed up by an ENT, who referred him for stereotactic radiosurgery. A literature review regarding vestibular schwannomas presenting with orofacial paraesthesia was then carried out. A review of the literature has shown the incidence of vestibular schwannoma to be 3-5 cases per 100,000. It has been reported that approximately 5% of vestibular schwannoma cases display orofacial dysaesthesia, and about 1-3% of cases exhibit trigeminal neuralgia symptoms. This is a rare case of vestibular schwannoma causing trigeminal nerve paraesthesia. The aim of this study is to raise awareness of alternative causes of trigeminal nerve paraesthesia and the available literature surrounding this.

**Keywords :** acoustic neuroma, orofacial dysaesthesia, trigeminal nerve paraesthesia, vestibular schwannoma

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