Anatomy Tip

Trigeminal Nerve (CN 5)

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding Professionals for ICD-10, the following anatomy tip is provided with an educational intent.

TIP: The Trigeminal Nerve is the largest of the cranial nerves, providing sensory information to the head and face, with motor nerves supporting the muscles of mastication.

The Trigeminal nerve has three major branches:
1. The Ophthalmic Nerve (V1)
2. The Maxillary Nerve (V2)
3. The Mandibular Nerve (V2)

The Ophthalmic nerve carries only sensory fibers. Branches include nasociliary nerve and its branches; posterior ethmoidal nerve, long ciliary nerve, infratrochlear nerve, anterior ethmoidal nerve, the lacrimal nerve, the frontal nerve and its branches; supratroclear nerve, supraorbital nerve.

The Maxillary nerve carries sensory fibers. Branches include middle meningeal nerve, Infraorbital nerve, zygomatic nerve, nasopalantine nerves, superior alveolar nerves, palatine nerves, pharyngeal nerve, inferior palpebral nerve, superior labial nerve.

The Mandibular nerve has motor and sensory functions. Branches include nervus spinosus, medial pterygoid nerve (to tensor tympani and tensor veli palatini), masseteric nerve, deep temporal nerves, buccal nerve, lateral pterygoid nerve, auriculotemporal nerve, lingual nerve, inferior alveolar nerve, motor branch to mylohyoid and digastric muscles.

References: Gray’s Anatomy of the Human Body

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