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Cervicogenic headache: an early description

Despite the controversies surrounding the clinical sources and pathological basis for cervicogenic headache, this term was used by, and often is attributed to Otto Sjaastad,^{1,2} although Barré and Riff had earlier described headache and vertigo, related to cervical arthritis, ascribed to stimulation of the vertebral nerve.³ However, an impressive, but little known description is found in the fourth of 18 lectures given between 1860 and 1862 on *Rest and Pain*, in John Hilton's classical text⁴:

"Suppose a person to complain of pain upon the scalp, is it not very essential to know whether that pain is expressed by the fifth nerve or by the great or small occipital? Thus pain in the anterior and lateral part of the head, which are supplied by the fifth nerve, would suggest that the cause must be some-

where in the area of distribution of the other portions of the fifth nerve. So if the pain be expressed, the cause must assuredly be connected with the great or small occipital nerve, and in all probability depends on disease of the spine between the first and second cervical vertebrae."

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