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## Patient summary Gloria

"When a person gets old, the body is not so strong as it used to be. I saw it with my man and now I realize this in myself," explained 78 years old Gloria.

After the death of her husband, the old lady moved in with her youngest daughter. She wanted to support her working daughter Maria and her stepson with the three small kids and was looking forward to enjoying family life as long as possible.

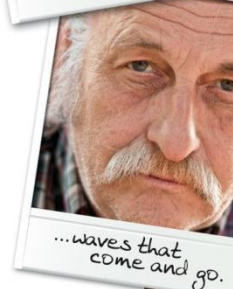
Out of a sudden a strong pain sensation in her face started to torture her. The feeling started above her eye and down to her cheek and went close to her nose. Gloria felt a burning fire under her skin and thousands of red-hot needles stabbing her face. Gloria considers herself as a strong woman and was proud not to complain. "I don't want to be a living problem for my family," she thought and tried to treat herself with homespun remedies that she knew from her mother, like cold and warm compresses and different crèmes. But nothing helped her and she was convinced that she has to accept this horrible pain for the rest of her remaining years.

Her daughter Maria realized Gloria's suffering: "My mom has always been a strong woman, even when my dad died. But when this strange and awful pain appeared her life changed complete. I can see that she is losing her quality of life."

Maria took her mother to a doctor, but the medication he prescribed did not help Gloria. She felt drowsy and insecure and was confused when and how much of it she should take. She stopped taking the prescribed medicine and became very introverted trying to cope with her pain. She was too exhausted to take care of the grandchildren and stayed in her room for days avoiding any contact to her family not to become a burden for their beloved ones.

Her daughter Maria couldn't stand seeing her mother suffering. She did not get tired of searching the internet for information and possible solutions for her mum. She printed out lots of information and brochures amongst others a pain questionnaire that she filled out together with Gloria. Mother and daughter went back to the physician showing the pain questionnaire and discussed in detail how Gloria's pain felt like, how it affected her life and where it is located and what triggered the sensations.

Gloria was not used to give so many detailed information about her life and her issues to a doctor, but during the discussion of the pain questionnaire she felt, for the very first time, understood. Her doctor discussed possible treatment options with her and Gloria gained hope that together they will find a good solution to relief her pain and to gain back her quality of life.



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