



What would be the correct translation of the terms "trigeminal nerve"? Let's use "nervo trigêmeos" or "nervo trigeminal"

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For years, a fact that has intrigued me is the translation from English to Portuguese of the words "trigeminal nerve" or "trigeminal neuralgia".¹⁻³ We find "nervo trigêmeo" or "neuralgia do trigêmeo" in many texts. If the fifth cranial nerve is called "trigêmeo" because it has three divisions, similar to the triplets, it should be called "nervo trigêmeos", as it is not one of three nerves.^{4,5}

The word "gêmeo," in the singular, can be used to refer to one of the twins or triplets, as in the example of "gêmeo hemiacárdico"⁶ or "gêmeo parasita"⁷.

It would be better to follow the trend in English to use "trigeminal". Even worse is to find written "nervo trigêmio".

Another misusage often mentioned by neurologists is placing lateralization on the Portuguese term "par craniano". It is not "uma paralisia do sétimo par craniano direito" (right seventh paired cranial nerves), but "uma paralisia do sétimo nervo craniano direito". When speaking "par craniano", one has the idea of being bilateral.

References

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