Diagnosing and Managing Primary Headache Disorders in the Primary Care Setting: Challenges and Opportunities

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1. A 32-year-old woman complains of painful headaches at least 2 times a day for the past two weeks, occurring on the right side near her temple. They have sudden onset and usually resolve within an hour. She reports right-sided tearing and nasal congestion and feels restless during the headaches. Which headache type is most likely?

- a. Chronic migraine
- b. Episodic tension-type headache
- c. Cluster headache
- d. Headache due to secondary cause

Which of these facts support the role of inhibiting CGRP for headache prevention?

a. CGRP is a neuropeptide with vasodilation properties

b. CGRP levels increase during migraines; experimental injection of CGRP mimics the symptoms of a migraine

- c. CGRP modulates acetylcholine and glutamate release
- d. CGRP antibodies cross the blood brain barrier

Which of the following classes is used for acute headache treatment?

- a. CGRP inhibitors
- b. Botulinum toxin
- c. Beta-blockers
- d. Gepants

A 24-year-old married female with a 5-year migraine history presents to your office and you are interested in providing preventive migraine therapy to her. She is actively trying to get pregnant. Which of the following would you start with?

- a. Begin with a dosage of preventive therapy slightly higher than abortive therapy
- b. Start a preventive agent, then taper/stop after 3 months if well-controlled.
- c. Discuss medication considerations in pregnancy
- d. Recommend daily NSAID or ergotamine use to start





## **Migraine Impact**

- One in five US adults has migraine<sup>1</sup>
- Ranks #5 for emergency department (ED) visits, annually<sup>1</sup>
  - Most common primary headache reason to visit an ED<sup>2</sup>
  - 5 million headache annual visits to US EDs<sup>2</sup>
  - Mean cost of migraine-related ED visit = \$775<sup>2</sup>

### • Diagnosis in the ED:

- Increase in neuroimaging, such as CT scans, by 50% between 1992– 2001<sup>3</sup>
- >½ of migraine patients who presented to an urban ED in 2008 received head CT

1. Saguil A, Lax JW. Am Fam Physician. 2014;89:742-744. 2. Minen MT et al. Headache. 2014;54:1131-1145. 3. Minen MT et al. Headache. 2014;54:1131-1145.







SAH = subarachnoid hemorrhage.

# Headache History: Useful Questions

- When did your headaches first start?
- How often do you get headaches that, if untreated, are so severe you find it difficult to function?
- What is the pain like and how long does it last?
- How quickly does it build to maximum?
- Do you have other symptoms besides head pain with these headaches?
- What makes your headaches better or worse?
- How often do you take something for your headaches? What do you take?
- Does anyone else in your family have similar headaches?
- Do you get other kinds of headache?
- Has there been any recent change in your headaches?



CN = cranial nerve; DTR = deep tendon reflex; ROM = range of motion; TMJ = temporomandibular joint.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Headache. Bloomington, MN: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI); 2009.



Menu

#### Headache Type: Decision Aid Part 1

The tool below will help guide you through a series of questions to determine the type of headache your patient may have.





























## Simplified Diagnostic Criteria: ID Migraine

- Symptoms in the last 3 months:
  - Light sensitivity
  - Nausea with headache
  - Decreased ability to function with headache
- Any 2 or 3 of above symptoms = migraine

Lipton RB et al. Neurology. 2003;12:375-382.

## **IHS Classification: Migraine vs Tension-type HA**

### Migraine

- ≥5 attacks lasting 4–72 hours
- $\geq 2$  of the following:
  - Unilateral
  - Pulsating
  - Moderate or severe intensity
  - Aggravation by routine physical activity
- $\geq 1$  of the following
  - Nausea and/or vomiting
  - Photophobia and phonophobia
- Not attributable to another disorder

### **Tension-type**

- ≥10 attacks lasting 30 min−7 days
- $\geq 2$  of the following:
  - Bilateral
  - Not pulsating
  - Mild or moderate intensity
  - Not aggravated by routine physical activity
- No nausea or vomiting
- One or neither photophobia or phonophobia
- Not attributable to another disorder

HA = headache.

IHS Classification ICHD-3 beta (www.ichd-3.org/1-migraine/). Headache Classification Committee of IHS. Cephalalgia. 2013;33:629-808.



ICHD, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (beta version). Cephalalgia. 2013;33(9):629-808.

Characteristics of Migraine Headache	
Attacks	Occur any time of day
Frequency	1–10 per month; average 1.5 per month
Onset	Gradual onset, peak, then subsidence
Duration	4–72 hours in adults; 2–48 hours in children
Location	60% unilateral; 20% always same side; 40% bilateral; neck pain very common
Pain	Moderate to severe; 50% pulsating; aggravated by movement
Associated symptoms	<u>GI</u> : anorexia (common); nausea (frequent); vomiting (common); diarrhea (16%). <u>CNS</u> : photophobia; phonophobia; osmophobia

Headache. Cephalalgia. 2013;33:629-808.

# **Episodic Tension-Type Headache (ETTH)**

- ETTH was previously known as:
  - Tension headache
  - Muscle-contraction headache
  - Psychogenic headache
  - Stress headache
- Most common headache type
  - Can occur at any age
  - Most people with ETTH self-medicate with OTC analgesics

ICHD, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (beta version). *Cephalalgia*. 2013;33(9):629-808.



## Certain Situations Make Migraine Treatment More Problematic

- Severe attacks that awaken a patient from sleep
- Migraine with menses (35–54% of women)
  - Longer duration and greater recurrence
  - Increased association with disability
  - Increased resistance to treatment
- The patient reports side effects with medications for acute migraine
- Nausea is present early in the course of the attack
- Medical mythology issues ("I can't prescribe triptans because...")
  - Patient had chest tightness with a triptan
  - Patient is taking SSRIs or SNRIs
  - Patient is pregnant
  - Patient is breastfeeding

SSRI = selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitor; SNRI = serotonin and norepinephrine-reuptake inhibitor.


- Indicated when secondary cause of headache is suspected
- CT and MRI overused in assessment of migraine sufferers (particularly in the emergency department)
- <u>CHOOSING WISELY</u>: Don't perform neuroimaging studies in patients with stable headaches that meet criteria for migraine

CT = computed tomography. MRI = magnetic resonance imaging.

Ropper A, Brown R, eds. Adams and Victor's Principles of Neurology. Eighth ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2005:16-21 Minen MT et al. Headache. 2014;54:1131-1145. Chosing Wisely. (www.choosingwisely.org/as-part-of-choosing-wisely-campaign-american-headache-societyreleases-list-of-commonly-used-tests-and-treatments-to-question/). Accessed on 8/10/17.



- Guidelines recommend head imaging:
  - For new-onset severe headache
  - New type of headache after age 50
  - New abnormal physical signs on neurological examination
  - If immunosuppressed (ED Guidelines)<sup>1</sup>
  - Not be performed in migraine sufferers who have a stable headache that meets the criteria for migraine (American Headache Society)<sup>2</sup>
  - Not be performed for an uncomplicated headache (American College of Radiology)<sup>3</sup>

1. Minen MT et al. *Headache*. 2014;54:1131-1145. 2. Loder E et al. *Headache*. 2013;53:1651-1659. 3. American College of Radiology (ACR); 2012. Choosing Wisely. (www.choosingwisely.org/as-part-of-choosing-wisely-campaign-american-headache-society-releases-list-of-commonly-used-tests-and-treatments-to-question/). Accessed 8/7/17.

## **Chronic Migraine**

### ICHD-3 beta criteria<sup>1</sup>

- Headache on ≥15 days/month
   ≥3 months with ≥5 prior
   migraine attacks
- On ≥8 days/month, headache fulfills criteria for migraine
- Not attributed to another causative disorder
- Medication-overuse headache (MOH) is classified separately as a secondary chronic daily headache

### FDA-approved simplified diagnosis for chronic migraine (phenotype approach)<sup>2</sup>

- Headache ≥15 days/month
   AND
- Duration of ≥4 hours/day

1. HCC of IHS. Cephalalgia. 2013;33:629-808. 2. OnabotulinumtoxinA [Botox<sup>®</sup>] prescribing information (www.allergan.com/assets/pdf/botox\_pi.pdf). Accessed 10-30-17.















uestion 1	Menu
/hat is the first step in diagnosing Sally's condition?	
EASE SELECT ONE ANSWER	Sally
Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan	Q1 Question 1
B Headache diary	0
Headache history	Question 2
Response to a trial of medication	in a foregoing of
Submit	Behavioral Strategies
Submit	Behavioral Strategies



Question 2	Menu
Sally is eventually diagnosed with migraine, and is interested in exploring non- medication options first. PLEASE SELECT ONE ANSWER	Sally Q1
<ul> <li>Non pharmacological treatment?</li> <li>Behavioral strategies?</li> </ul>	Cuestion 1
Submit	Behavioral Strategies









# **Pharmacologic Treatments**

#### ACUTE

#### PREVENTIVE

NSAIDs

Triptans

Ditans

Ergotamines

Gepants

CGRP Targeted mAbs

**Beta-blockers** 

Calcium-channel blockers

Antidepressants

Anticonvulsants

Botox (\*CM)

#### **INTERVENTIONAL**

**Trigger Points** 

**Nerve Blocks** 

**Other therapies** 







- When diagnosis is uncertain
- When patient does not respond to usual acute or preventitive treatment
- When the patient has new neurologic signs
- When the patient is getting progressively worse



### **Patient education is KEY:**

- What to do at headache onset
- What to do for prevention
- What to do if treatment is not helping, ie, what is the rescue plan?
- Awareness of side effects of any existing/new medications
- What is a red flag or emergency? What to do.
- Special instructions: travel; stressful events; pregnancy

Perets A et al. American Migraine Foundation. https://americanmigrainefoundation.org/understanding-migraine/communication-making-sure-youhave-success/



## Headache Treatment

- <u>Education!</u>
- Acute (abortive)
  - Taken after attack has begun to relieve pain and disability and stop progression

### <u>Preventive</u>

- Taken to reduce attack frequency, severity, and duration of attacks
- Some newer therapies have overlapping acute and preventive properties

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## Headache Treatment (continued)

- Effective management depends on:
  - Making an accurate diagnosis
  - Addressing headache impact
  - Engaging patient in their therapy
- Ultimate goals of treatment:
  - Identify and remove exacerbating factors (including medications)
  - For acute treatment: Rapid and sustained relief from pain and other symptoms (acute treatment)
  - For preventive treatment: Reduced frequency, severity, duration of migraine attacks, and associated disability
  - For both types of treatment: Minimal adverse effects such as dizziness, cognitive dysfunction, weight change, etc.



# **Traditional Acute Migraine Treatments**

### **Non-specific**

- NSAIDs
- Combination analgesics
- Neuroleptics/antiemetics
- Corticosteroids

### Specific

- Ergotamine/DHE
- Triptans

### **New formulations**

- FDA-approved
  - Breath-powered intranasal sumatriptan dry powder<sup>2,3</sup>
  - New sumatriptan autoinjectors<sup>4</sup>
- In development
  - Microneedle-array skin patches (zolmitriptan, sumatriptan)
  - Orally inhaled (zolmitriptan, DHE)
  - New intranasal delivery
    - Sumatriptan liquid spray with enhanced permeation<sup>5</sup>

NSAID = non-steroidal antiinflammatory drug; DHE = dihydroergotamine.

1. Silberstein S. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2012;13:1961-8. 2. Tepper SJ et al. Headache. 2015;55:621-35. 3. Tepper D Headache.2016;56:817. 4. 4. Andre et al. Patient Prefer Adherence. 2017;11:121-129. 5. Munjal S et al. J Headache Pain. 2017;18:17.

Level A: Effective	Level B: Probably effective	Level C: Possibly effective	Level U: Inadequate/ Conflicting	Ineffective
<b>AEDs</b> Divalproex Valproate	<b>SNRI/TCA</b> Amitriptyline Venlafaxine	ACE inhibitor Lisinopril	CA inhibitor Acetazolamide Anticoagulants	<b>NOT effective</b> Lamotrigine
Topiramate		<mark>α-agonists</mark> Clonidine	Coumadin Picotamide	Probably NOT effective
<b>β-blockers</b> Metoprolol	<b>β-blockers</b> Atenolol	Guanfacine	SSRI/SSNRI Fluvoxamine	Clomipramine
Propranolol Timolol	Nadolol	<b>AEDs</b> Carbamazepine	Fluoxetine <b>AEDs</b> Gabapentin	Possibly NOT effective Acebutolol
ARB		β-blockers	TCAs	Clonazepam
Candesartan*		Nebivolol Pindolol	Protriptyline <b>β-blockers</b> Bisoprolol	Nabumetone Oxcarbazepine Telmisartan
		Leukotriene antagonist	Ca channel blockers Nicardipine	
		Cyproheptadine	Nifedipine Nimodipine Verapamil	

\*Studies now suggest level A evidence

AAN = American Academy of Neurology; AED = antiepileptic drug; ARB = angiotensin-receptor blocker; ACE = angiotensinconverting enzyme; Ca = calcium.

Adapted from Silberstein SD. Neurology. 2012;78:1337Y1345.

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# **RECENTLY APPROVED ACUTE THERAPIES**

- NEW TRIPTAN FORMULATIONS
  - Breath powered intranasal sumatriptan powder
  - Sumatriptan liquid spray with enhanced permeation
- NEUROMODULATION
  - Transcranial magnetic stimulation (sTMS mini)
  - Transcutaneous supraorbital nerve stimulation (Cephaly)
  - Transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (Gammacore)
- LASMIDITAN
- UBROGEPANT
- RIMAGEPANT



- Unlike triptans, no effects on vasculature









# **CGRP** in Migraine

- CGRP immunoreactive nerves innervate human cerebral arteries
- CGRP is a potent vasodilator of human cerebral arteries
- CGRP is released into jugular venous system during migraine
- Serum CGRP levels are elevated in chronic migraine
- CGRP infusion evokes migraine
- Small-molecule CGRP-receptor antagonists (gepants) effectively abort migraine attacks
- Anti-CGRP and anti-CGRP-receptor monoclonal antibodies prevent episodic migraine (EM) and chronic migraine (CM)

Adapted from AHS CMEP. Edvinsson L et al. *Neurosci Lett.* 1985;58:213-217. McCulloch J et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 1986;83:5731-5735. Edvinsson L et al. *Ann Neurol.* 1987;21:431-437. Lassen LH et al. *Cephalalgia*. 2002;22:54-61. Goadsby PJ, Edvinsson L. *Brain*. 1994;117:427-434. Olesen J et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2004;350:1104-1110. Ho TW et al. *Neurology*. 2008;70:1304-1312. Voss T et al. *Cephalalgia*. 2016;36:887-898.

### Small-Molecule CGRP Receptor Antagonists: Gepants

### Acute treatment of migraine

- Olcegepant (IV) worked; comparable to triptans: proof of concept<sup>1</sup>
- BI 44370 TA (oral): effective vs placebo in phase 2<sup>2</sup>
- Telcagepant showed promise and efficacy comparable to triptans, but development stopped due to liver toxicity in phase 3<sup>3</sup>
- MK3207: effective and well tolerated in phase 2<sup>6</sup> but liver toxic
- Rimegepant: FDA approved for acute treatment of migraine
- Ubrogepant: FDA approved for acute treatment of migraine
- Preventive treatment of migraine
  - Telcagepant studied in 2 incomplete studies, with one terminated early due to <u>hepatotoxicity</u> and the other for evaluation of liver in MRM mini-prevention
  - Rimegepant phase 3 study demonstrated efficacy in migraine prevention with every other day dosing
  - Atogepant vs placebo underway in phase 2 for migraine prevention




**Rimegepant Met Primary Endpoint of Reduction in Monthly Migraine Days** Rimegepant 75 mg Placebo **Every Other Day** All All No No Preventives N=269 Patients **Preventives** Patients N=347 N=273 N=348 0 Mean Change from Baseline in Monthly Migraine Days at 3 Months p=0.0020 p=0.0176\* -1 -2 -3 -3.7 -3.7 -4 -4.5 -5 -4.9





Four Injectable Monoclonal Antibodies to
CGRP or Its Receptor

	Erenumab	Fremanezumab	Galcanezumab	Eptinezumab*
Studied for	EM, CM	EM, CM, eCH, cCH	EM, CM, eCH, cCH	EM, CM
Dosing	Monthly SC	Monthly or Q3 month SC; IV load for CH	Monthly SC	Q3 month IV
	Fully human	Fully Humanized	Humanized	Humanized
Target	CGRP receptor	CGRP peptide or ligand	CGRP peptide or ligand	CGRP peptide or ligand
Regulatory status as of Oct, 2018	FDA Approved May 17, 2018	FDA Approved Sep 16, 2018	FDA Approved Sep 27, 2018	FDA Approved

\*Not currently approved for migraine. Terms: umab = fully human; zumab = humanized, 90% human; fully humanized 95% human. eCH = episodic cluster headache; cCH = chronic cluster headache.













## Will the mABs Be an Improvement? The 4 mABs

- All data announced to date for EM and CM have shown a reduction in mean MMDs with a magnitude of 1–3 days drop over placebo, similar to the registration studies for onabotulinumtoxin A
- Using MMDs is necessary from a regulatory standpoint
- However, MMDs are not a useful clinical endpoint for estimating value since the clinical effect is underestimated due to inclusion of placebo
- More useful is the drop from baseline and the secondary endpoints, such as responder rates

MMDs = monthly migraine days

# **Clinical Utility of the 4 mABs**

- For example, with erenumab in CM prevention, a 6.7 day reduction in MMDs was found in the pivotal trial, which would represent 79 fewer migraine days per year<sup>1</sup>
- In the galcanezumab EM registration studies<sup>2</sup> and the eptinezumab Phase 2 CM studies,<sup>5</sup> the ≥75% responder rates were ≥33%
- All 4 mABs work in CM prevention with medication overuse and without (pre-specified secondary analyses)<sup>3</sup>
- Erenumab worked better in patients who had failed ≥2 preventive meds vs none, odds ratio 4.18 vs 1.33 (pre-specified secondary analysis)<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Tepper S et al. Lancet Neurol. 2017;16:425-434. 2. Skljarevski V et al. AHS meeting June 2017 (abstract IOR-12LB).

<sup>3.</sup> Tepper S et al. AHS meeting, E-poster (EP-01-013), Sept 8, 2017. 4. Ashina M et al. PO-01-180. IHC, Sept 2017 (abstract PO-01-180). 5. Smith J et al. *Headache*. 2017;57 (suppl 3): 130 (IOR06).

### **Additional Recent Trials**

• Ashina, et al:

*"Efficacy and safety of erenumab (AMG334) in chronic migraine patients with prior preventive treatment failure: A subgroup analysis of a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study."* 

• Buse, et al:

*"Migraine-related disability, impact, and health-related quality of life among patients with episodic migraine receiving preventive treatment with erenumab."* 

• Depre, et al:

*"A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the effect of erenumab on exercise time during a treadmill test in patients with stable angina."* 

• Camporeale, et al:

*"A phase 3, long-term, open-label safety study of galcanezumab in patients with migraine."* 

### **Additional Recent Trials**

• Ford, et al:

"Patient satisfaction, health care resource utilization, and acute headache medication use with galcanezumab: results from a 12-month open-label study in patients with migraine."

• Nichols, et al:

"Analysis of initial nonresponders to galcanezumab in patients with episodic or chronic migraine: Results from the EVOLVE-1, EVOLVE-2, and REGAIN randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies."

Cohen, et al:

*"Fremanezumab as add-on treatment for patients treated with other migraine preventive medicines."* 

• Halker Singh, et al:

"Sustained reductions in migraine days, moderate-to-severe headache days and days with acute medication use for HFEM and CM patients taking fremanezumab: Post-hoc analyses from phase 2 trials."

# **Conclusions:** Reasons for Optimism in Migraine

- Better recognition of individual patient characteristics
- New routes of administration of existing therapies
- New acute medications in development
- New preventive treatments in development
- Better understanding of migraine physiology

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