



Headaches, classification.  
Migraine  
Tension type headache  
Cluster headache  
Trigeminal neuralgia  
Giant cell arteritis (GCA)

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# Headache



- The most common symptom in medical practice (lifetime prevalence >90%)
- Headaches in the emergency department: **1.7-4.5%** / year (US 4%)
- A frequent symptom even in acute neurological diseases
  - TIA 30%
  - Ischemic stroke 14-38%
  - Hemorrhagic stroke 34-57%
  - SAH 30% as the only symptom
  - CVT 70-90% as presenting symptom

## I. Primary headaches

1. Migraine
2. Tension type headache
3. Trigeminal autonomic headache
  - 3.1 Cluster headache
  - 3.2 Paroxysmal hemicrania
  - 3.3 Short-lasting unilateral neuralgiform HD attacks
  - 3.4 Hemicrania continua
  - 3.5 Probable trigeminal autonomic cephalgia
4. Other primary headaches
  - 4.1 Primary cough headache
  - 4.2 Primary exercise headache
  - 4.3 Primary headache associated with sexual activity
  - 4.4 Primary thunderclap headache
  - 4.5 Cold-stimulus headache
  - 4.6 External-pressure headache
  - 4.7 Primary stabbing headache
  - 4.8 Nummular headache
  - 4.9 Hypnic headache
  - 4.10 New daily persistent headache (NDPH)

## II. Secondary headaches (10%; ↑ > 50 year)

5. Headache attributed to trauma or injury to the head and/or neck
6. Headache attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorder (ischemic stroke, bleeding, vascular malformation, arteritis, cranial venous disorders)
7. Headache attributed to non-vascular intracranial disorder (↑/ ↓ CSF pressure, non-infectious inflammatory intracranial disease, intracranial neoplasia)
8. Headache attributed to a substance or its withdrawal
9. Headache attributed to infection (intracranial/systemic)
10. Headache attributed to disorder of homeostasis (hypoxia and/or hypercapnia, dialysis, arterial hypertension,
11. Headache or facial pain attributed to disorder of the cranium, neck, eyes, ears, nose, sinuses, teeth, mouth or other facial or cervical structure
12. Headache attributed to psychiatric disorder



## Secondary headaches "red flags" - SNNOOP10

1	Systemic symptoms including fever	Headache attributed to infection or non-vascular intracranial disorders, carcinoid, or pheochromocytoma	Headache with fever is primarily alarming when accompanied by relevant symptoms (e.g., neck stiffness, decreased consciousness, and neurologic deficit)
2	Neoplasm in history	Neoplasms of the brain; metastasis	A newly developed headache in a patient with neoplasm is highly suspect for an intracranial metastasis
3	Neurological deficit or dysfunction (including decreased consciousness)	Headaches attributed to vascular, non-vascular intracranial disorders Brain abscess and other infections	Headache occurs in one-fourth of episodes of acute stroke. The severity of headache is not related to the size of the lesion
4	Onset of headache is sudden or abrupt (thunderclap headache)	Subarachnoid hemorrhage and other headaches attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorders	Thunderclap headache can be the only initial symptom of subarachnoid hemorrhage
5	Older age (after 50 years)	Giant cell arteritis and other headache attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorders Neoplasms and other non-vascular intracranial disorders	Older individuals with headache have a higher frequency of secondary etiology. The incidence of primary headache disorders is also lower in this age group
6	Pattern change or recent onset of headache	Neoplasms, headaches attributed to vascular, non-vascular intracranial disorders	A recent change of pattern or a newly developed headache can be the only signs of a secondary etiology. Diagnosis is often delayed in these cases
7	Positional headache	Intracranial hypertension or hypotension	Positional headache is the trademark of intracranial hypotension, and the most common cause is cerebrospinal fluid leak at the spinal level
8	Precipitated by sneezing, coughing or exercise	Posterior fossa lesions, Chiari malformation	Cough headache is highly predictive of Chiari malformations and posterior fossa lesions
9	Papilledema	Neoplasms and other non-vascular intracranial disorders; intracranial hypertension	A high prevalence of patients with papilledema has a serious underlying pathology
10	Progressive headache and atypical presentations	Neoplasms and other non-vascular intracranial disorders	Progressive headache and atypical headache presentation can be the only signs of serious underlying pathology
11	Pregnancy or puerperium	Headaches attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorders; post-dural puncture headache; hypertension related disorders (e.g., preeclampsia); cerebral venous thrombosis; hypothyroidism; anemia; diabetes	Headache during pregnancy and puerperium has a higher risk of severe pathology. More than one-third of individuals presenting to acute care with headache during pregnancy will have a secondary etiology. Most common causes are hypertensive disorders followed by pituitary adenoma or stroke Other risk factors are no prior headache history, occurring during third trimester, seizures, hypertension, and fever
12	Painful eye with autonomic features	Pathology in <u>posterior fossa</u> , <u>pituitary region</u> or <u>cavernous sinus</u> Tolosa-Hunt syndrome Ophthalmic causes	Patients with presentations of painful eye with autonomic features should undergo neuroimaging as it can be due to a structural lesion. Even typical presentations of cluster headache (or other trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias) can derive from a structural lesion
13	Posttraumatic onset of headache	Acute and chronic posttraumatic headache; subdural hematoma and other headache attributed to vascular disorders	Headache related to trauma should always be explored
14	Pathology of the immune system such as AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) or medical immunosuppression	Opportunistic infections	Risk of severe pathology is dependent on the degree of immunosuppression
15	Painkiller overuse or new drug at onset of headache	Medication overuse headache; drug incompatibility	Medication overuse is the most common cause of secondary headache. Onset of headache due to a new drug can be a sign of incompatibility with the given drug

## "Green flags" for secondary headaches

- The current BH was also present during childhood
- The patient indicates a pause between episodes of HD
- Most primary pain is paroxysmal
- Related to the menstrual cycle
- Similar character of HD in the family
- HD started / ended more than 7 days ago

## History of headache

### **Side**

unilateral → migraine (60%), trigeminal autonomic HD, trigeminal/occipital neuralgia, glaucoma, nummular BH, temporal arteritis, optic neuritis, trigeminal neuralgia

bilateral → migraine (40%), tension HD, primary stabbing HD, cervicogenic HD,  
→ post-traumatic HD (tension BH/migraine)  
→ secondary BH (iCMP, hCMP, SAK)

### **Location where it originates / where it spreads**

#### **Character**

pressure, constriction → tension HD  
throbbing → migraine  
stabbing → primary stabbing HD  
neuralgic → trigeminal, occipital ev. other neuralgia

#### **Intensity**

severe → migraine (↑...↑↑...↑↑↑), trigeminal autonomic HD (↑↑↑), neuralgia  
moderate strong (VAS 4-5/10) → tension HD

#### **Duration**

hours → migraine (4-72 hours) vs. tension HD (30 min. – 7 days) vs. trigeminal autonomic HD (minutes)

Peaking pain? (hours...migraine vs minutes...trigeminal BH)

Was there similar pain in the past? What has changed over the years (character - not frequency)

#### **Symptoms**

Nausea / vomiting, photophobia / phonophobia, aura → migraine (trigeminal autonomic HD ↓)  
Cranial autonomic symptoms (lacrimation, eye pain), trigeminal autonomic HD (migraine +/-)  
glaucoma (+ eye pain, mydriasis, visual disturbances)

**Disability:** calm (migraine) vs. restlessness (cluster BH in TAC)

Menstrual related HD → migraine

Does HD arise during standing up? → intracranial hypotension syndrome

HD + transient visual disturbances (clouding, etc.) → idiopathic intracranial hypertension (**obesity + female**)

Wakes up with a HD → migraine, hypnic BH (older patients)

Headaches lasting several days → both migraine / tension-type BH

#### **Medication**

No response / decrease in intensity (↓ VAS) / complete relief of pain (2 hour pain free)

Adverse effects

# Migraine classification

## 1.1 Migraine without aura

## 1.2 Migraine with aura

### 1.2.1 Migraine with typical aura

#### 1.2.1.1 Typical aura with headache

#### 1.2.1.2 Typical aura without headache

### 1.2.2 Migraine with trunk aura

### 1.2.3 Hemiplegic migraine (familial, sporadic)

### 1.2.4 Retinal migraine

## 1.3 Chronic migraine

## 1.4 Complications of migraine

### 1.4.1 Migraine status

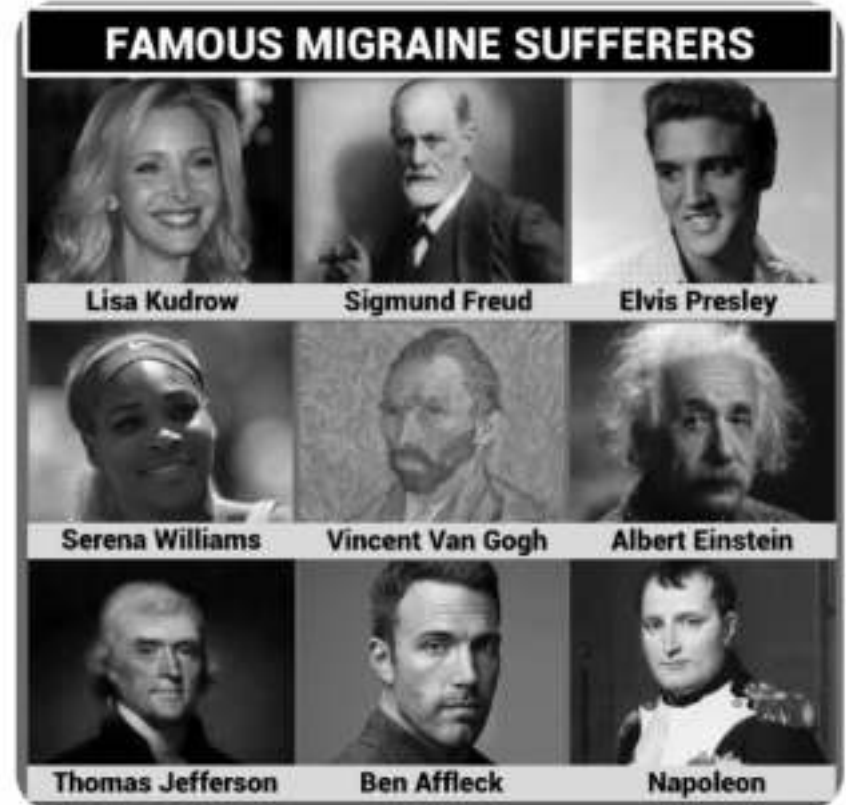
### 1.4.2 Persistent aura without infarction

### 1.4.3 Migrainous infarction

### 1.4.4 Migraine aura triggered seizure

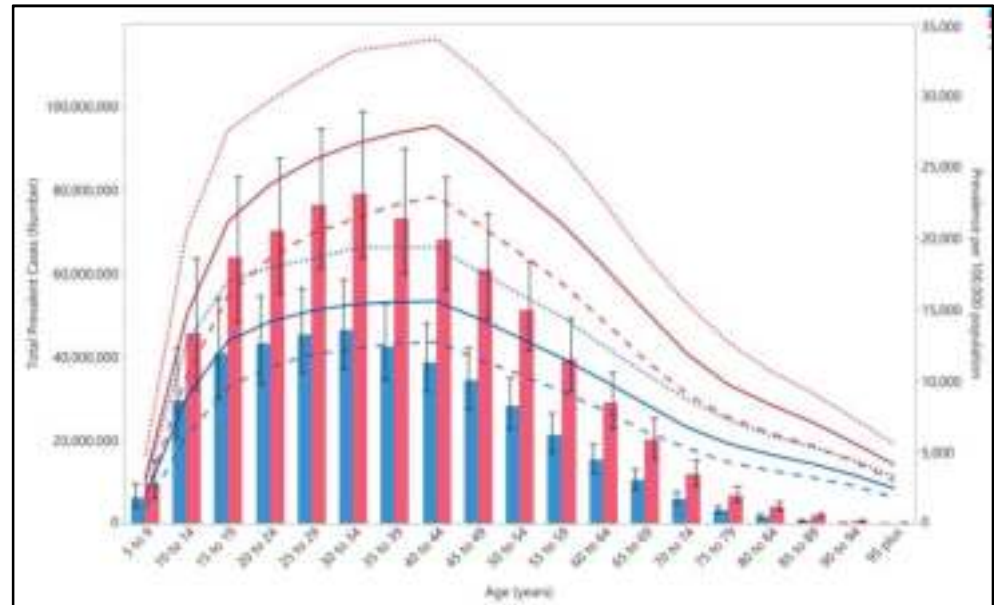
## 1.5 Probable migraine

## 1.6 Episodic syndromes associated with migraine



# Migraine

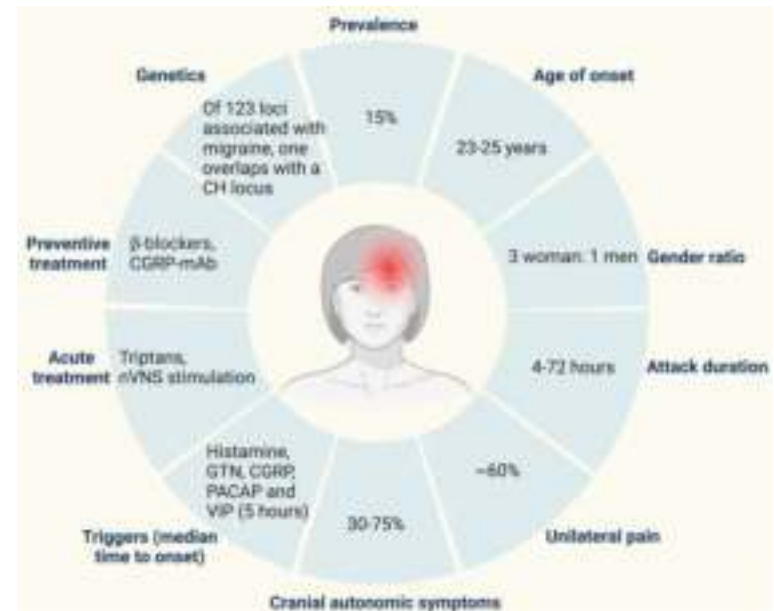
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> most common diagnosis
- The 6<sup>th</sup> cause of disability
- Prevalence in the population **12%**
  - 3x more common in women (18% vs. 6%)
- 50% first attack < 20 years of age
- 75% migraine before the age of 35
- 2% chronic migraine (>15 days/month)
- 20% menstrual migraine
- 30-50% vertigo during a migraine
- 75% cervical spine pain



Migraine prevalence (/100 000) <sup>4</sup>

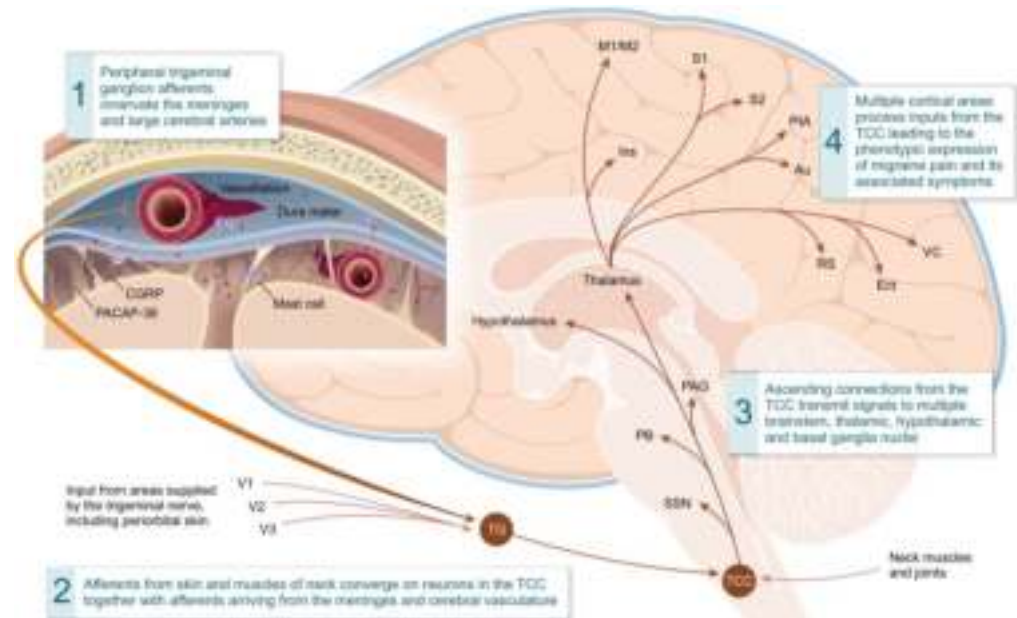
## Diagnostic criteria

- At least **5 attacks**<sup>1</sup> fulfilling criteria B-D
- Headache attacks lasting **4-72 hr (untreated/unsuccessfully treated)**<sup>2;3</sup>
- Headache has at **least 2** of the following four characteristics:
  - unilateral** location
  - pulsating** quality
  - moderate / severe** pain intensity
  - aggravation by or causing avoidance of routine physical activity
- During headache at least one of the following:
  - nausea and/or vomiting
  - photophobia and phonophobia
- Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis.



# Mechanism of migraine

- The trigeminovascular pathway transmits signals from the periphery (meninges) to the cortex
- Nociceptive fibers (V1-n.V) lead signals from the meninges to gl.trigeminale → trigeminocervical complex (ncl.caudalis n.V + dorsal horns C1 and C2) → thalamus → cortex
- Stimulated nociceptive neurons (inert the dura mater on the periphery) secrete vasoactive peptides (CGRP, PACAP) → activation of the trigeminovascular pathway



The trigeminovascular system contains

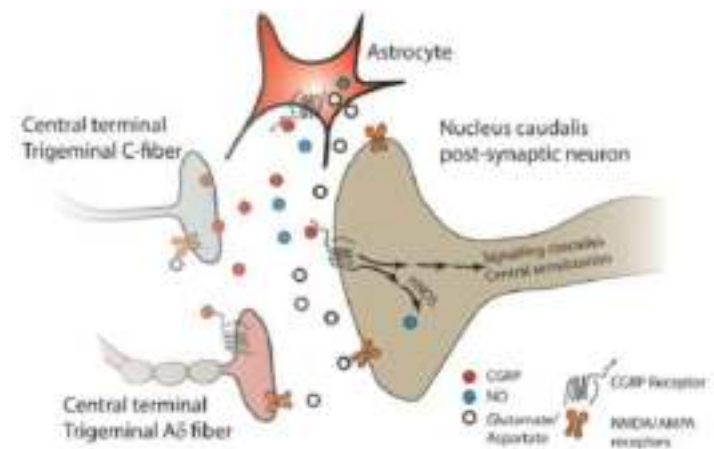
**Thin C fibers:** contain CGRP vesicles

**Thick A-δ fibers:** contain CGRP receptors

Stimulation of C fibers → release of CGRP → binding to CGRP receptor (A-δ)

↓ (cAMP)

Vasodilatation → **migraine headache**





# Why calcitonin gene related peptide ?

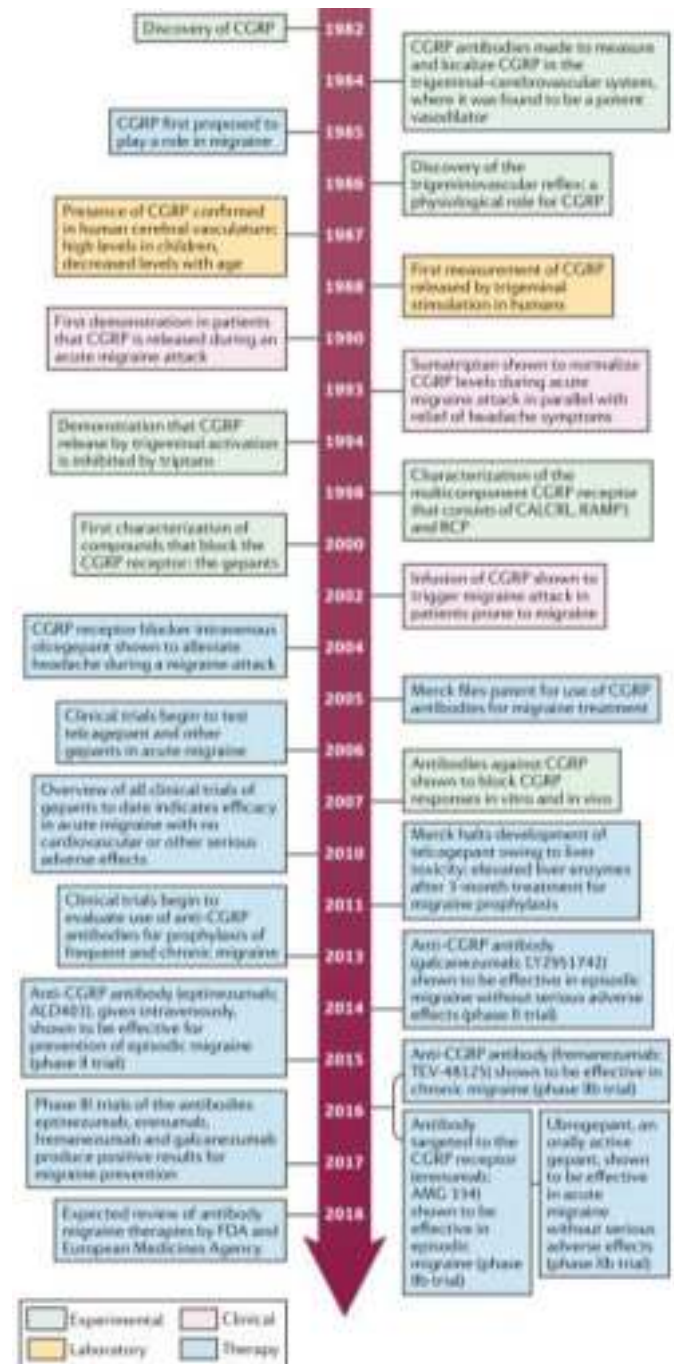
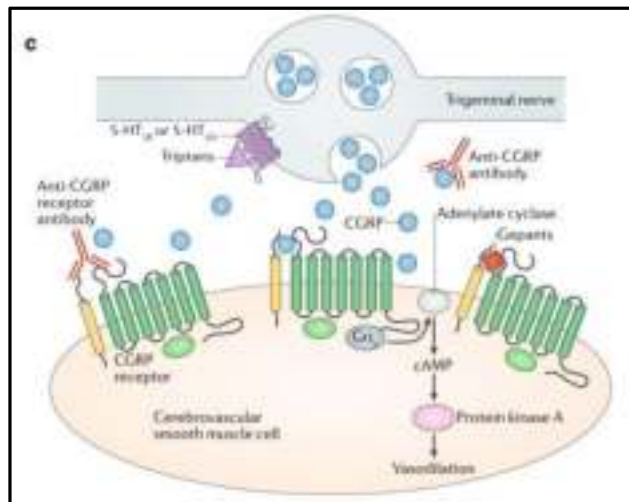
- CGRP is widely expressed (cortex, hippocampus, thalamus)
- Most (35-50%) is located in **trigeminal ganglion**
- CGRP binds with high affinity to receptors (CGRP, AMY1 and others) → signal transmission (cAMP, PKA, G-protein)

↓  
**vasodilatation, neurogenic inflammation, peripheral sensitization**

Vasoactive peptide release in the extracerebral circulation of humans during migraine headache  
 (Di F. J, Goadsby MD, PhD, L, Edvinsson MD, PhD, R, Blauw MD  
 N Engl J Med August 1995 | <https://doi.org/10.1056/ene.11020015> | CiteSpace 5.8.RT

	VIP	CGRP	SP	NPY
Site				
External jugular	< 6	86 ± 4 <sup>1</sup>	6 ± 2	130 ± 15
Cubital fossa	< 6	43 ± 6	4 ± 1	133 ± 10
Control values	< 20	< 40	< 4	< 130

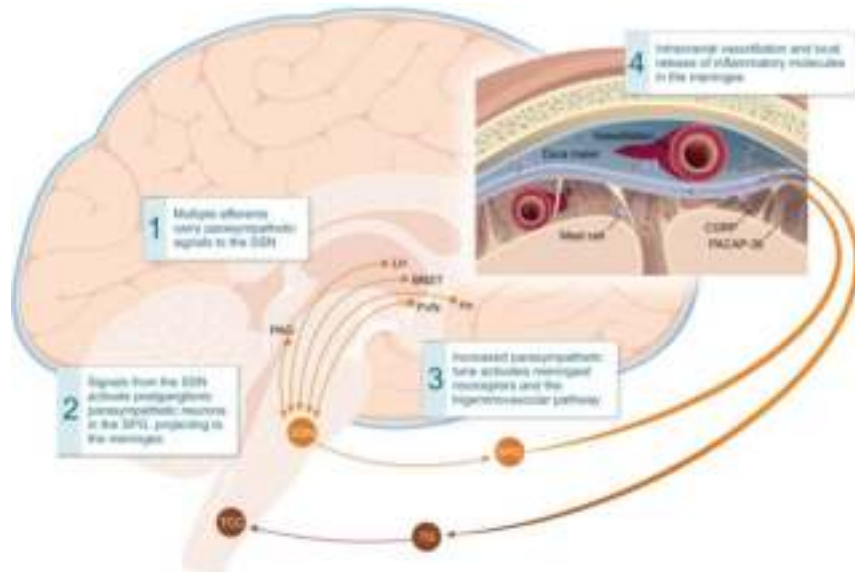
- Elevated CGRP values during a migraine attack (cerebral circulation only, VJI)
- **Triptans** (including DHE) led to a ↓CGRP levels



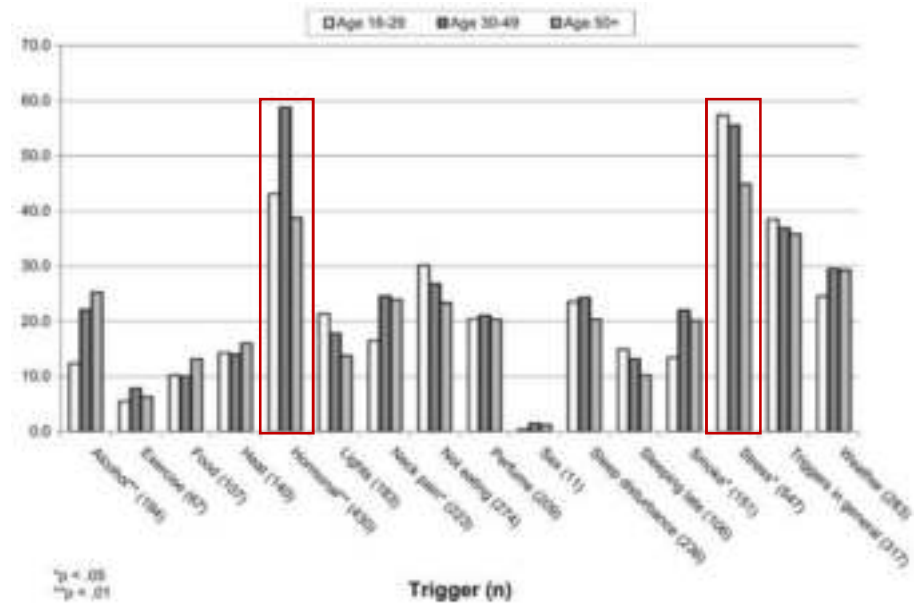
<sup>1</sup>Martelletti et al. 2019; <sup>2</sup>Edvinsson L, 2018; <sup>3</sup>De Vires et al., 2020

## But what causes the activation of meningeal nociceptors?

- Many symptoms of migraine (nausea, vomiting, cranial autonomic symptoms) arise as a result of changes in the ASN (sympathetic vs. parasympathetic)
- Migraine triggers (stress, awakening, changes in physiological functions) activate nociceptive pathways through **↑ parasympathetic activation**



Migraine triggers Kelman L, Headache 46.7 (2006): 1161-1171.



- **Prodrome (30 – 80 %)**

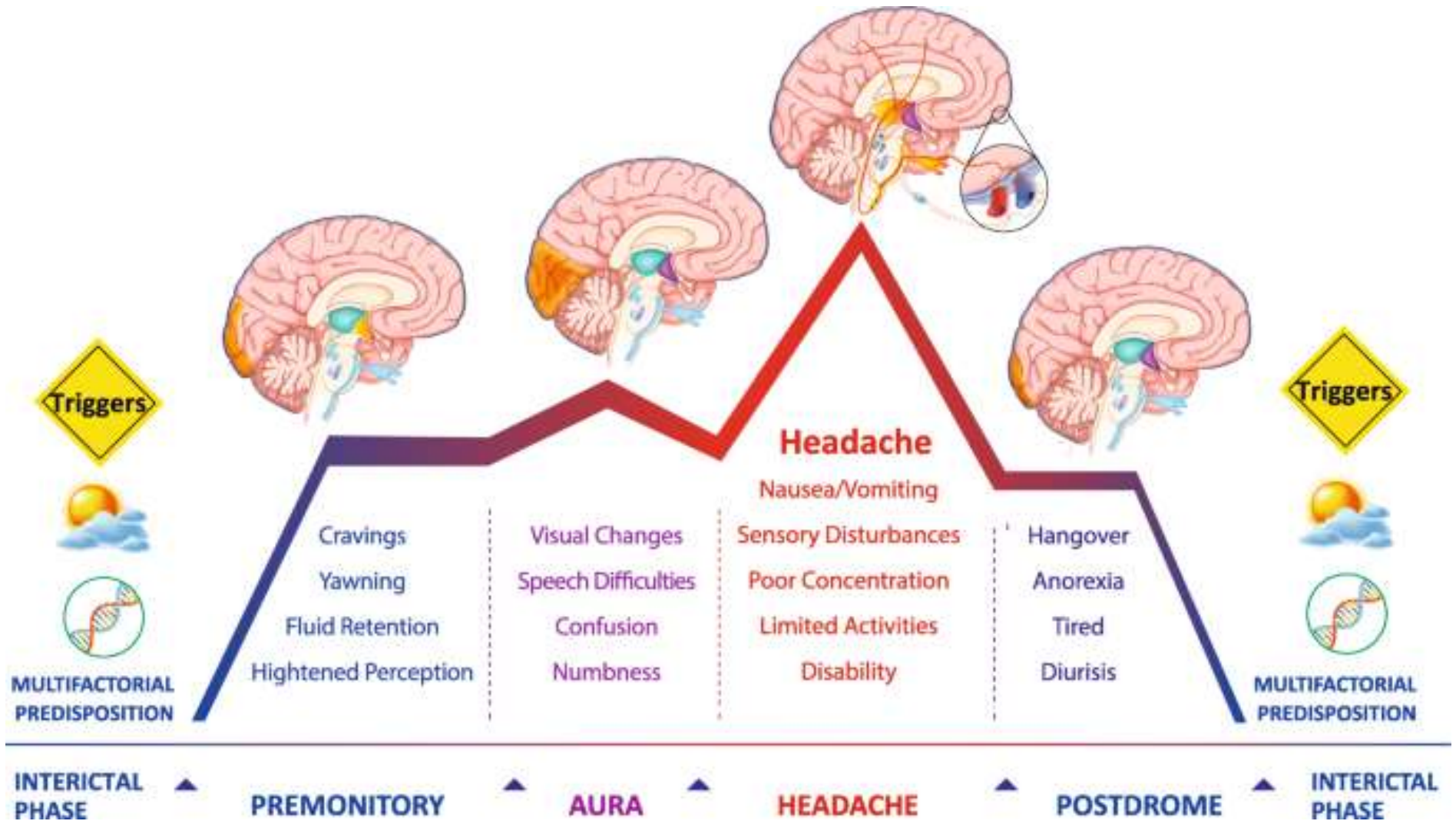
- sensitivity to light, sound and odors
- lethargy, yawning, tiredness
- mood changes (eg, depression, anger, euphoria)
- excessive thirst, anorexia

- **Aura (30 %)**

- Visual, sensory, speech, motor

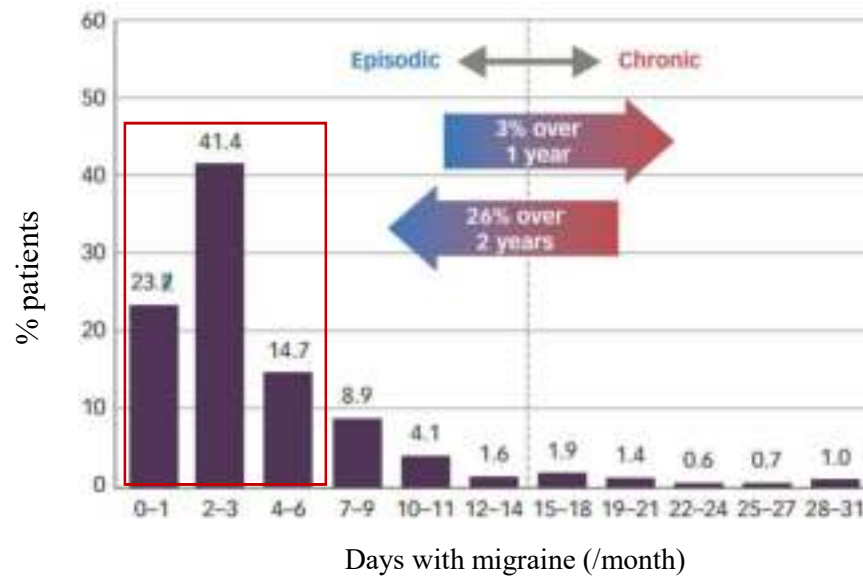
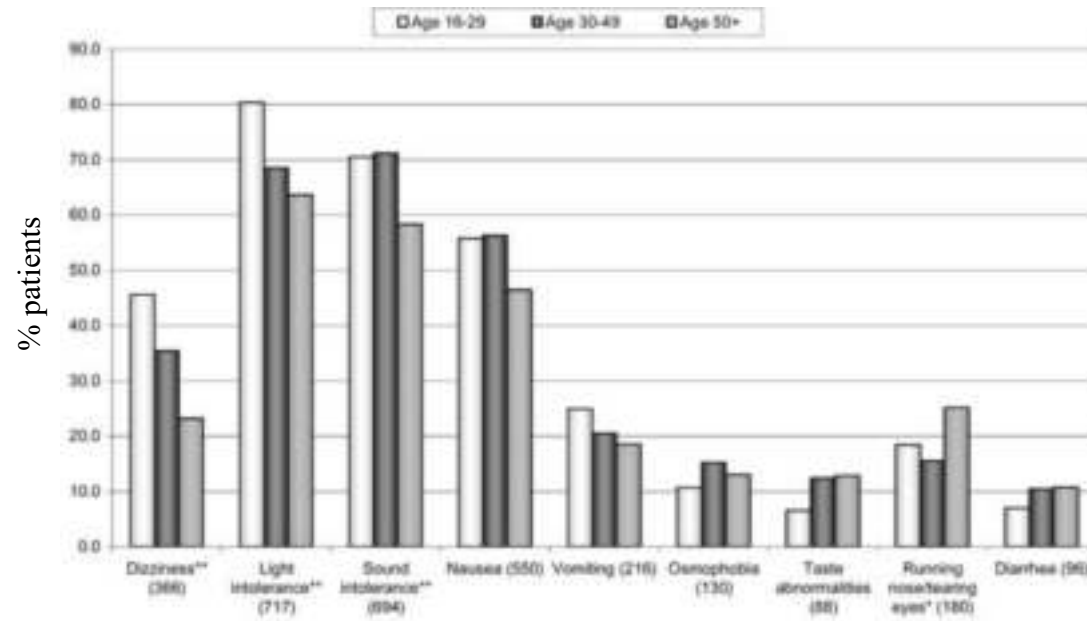
- **Headache**

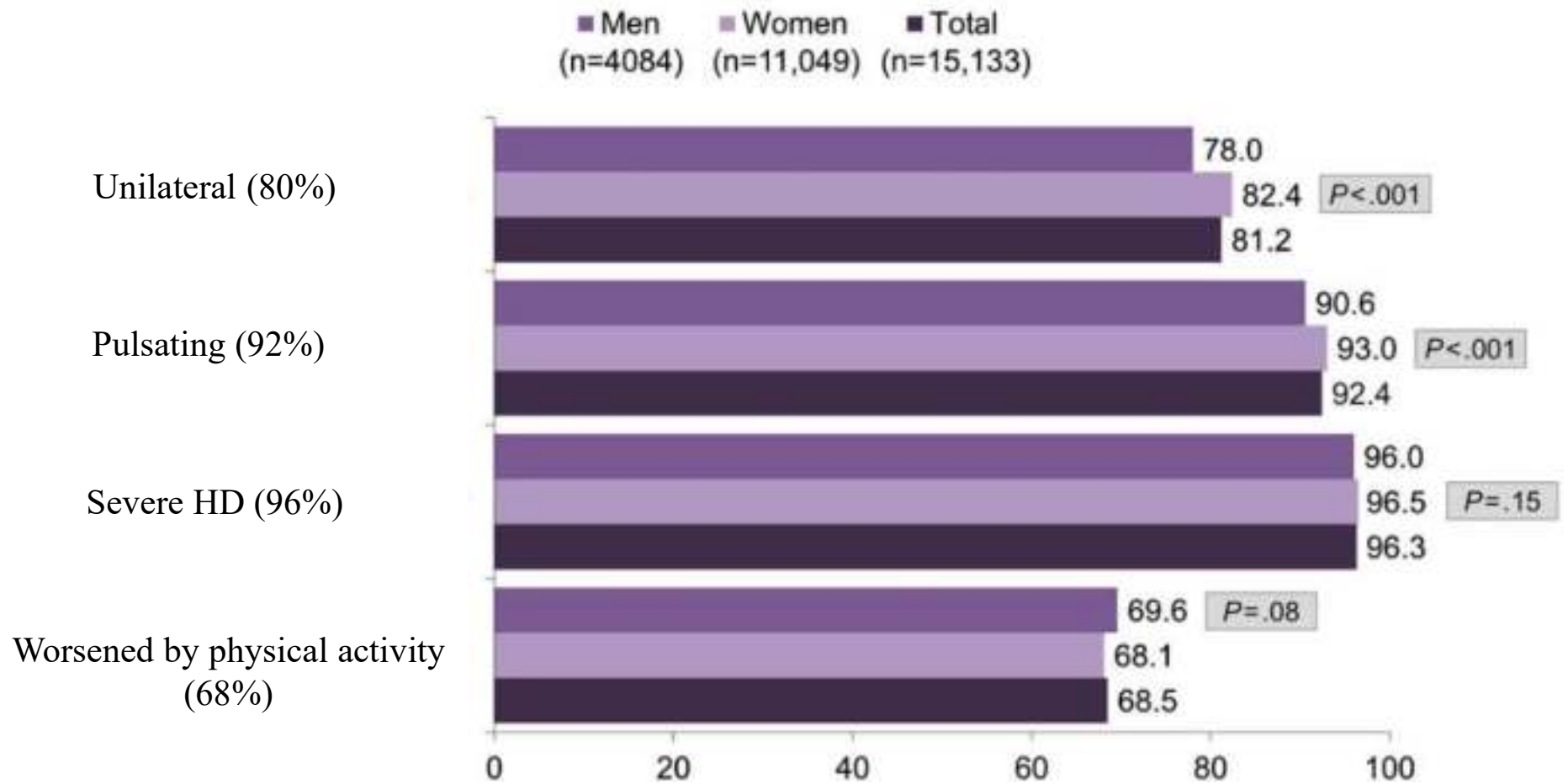
- **Postprodrome (80 %)**

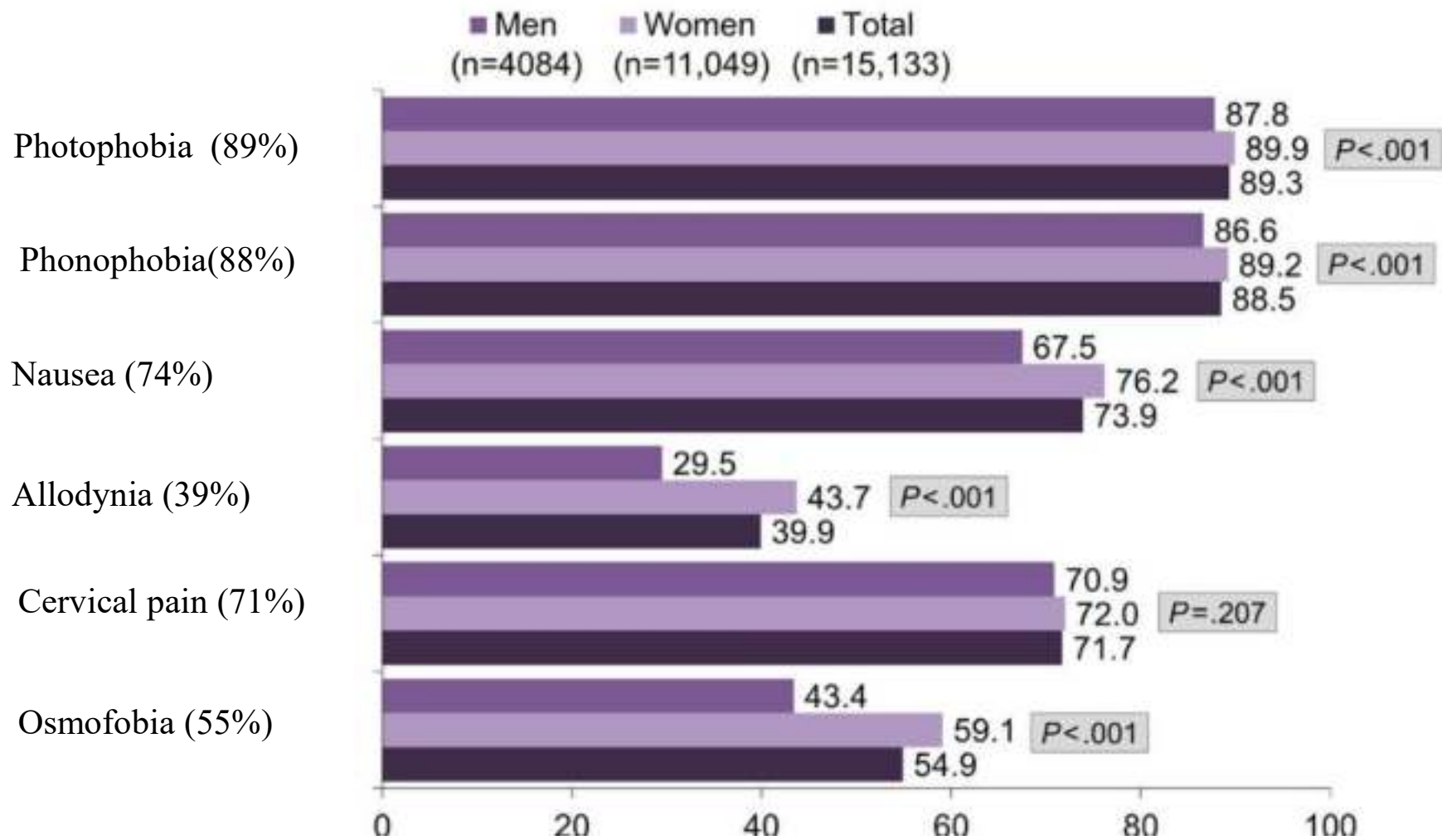


## Migraine symptoms Kelman L, Headache 46.7 (2006): 1161-1171.

50% Nausea  
 20% Vomiting  
 60-80% Fotofobia  
 60-70% Fonofobia  
 10-15% Osmofobia  
 20-45% Vertigo





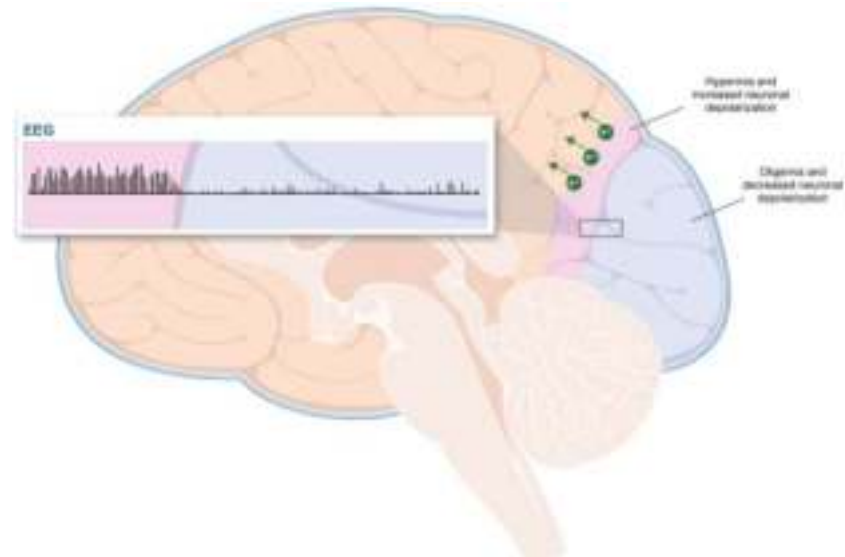


## Migraine with aura (20%)

- Neurological symptoms that precede the onset of migraine
- The essence of the aura is a cortical spreading depression (CSD, Leao)
- Depolarization wave (↑ flow 1-2 min; 2-6mm; **hyperemia**) → suppression of cortical activity (↓ flow by 20-30%; **oligemia**)

### Diagnostic criteria:

- A.  $\geq 2$  attacks fulfilling criteria B and C
- B. One or more of the following fully reversible aura symptoms:
1. visual
  2. sensory
  3. speech and/or language
  4. motor
  5. brainstem
  6. retinal
- C. **At least 3** of the following six characteristics:
1.  $\geq 1$  aura symptom **spreads gradually over  $\geq 5$  minutes**
  2.  $\geq 2$  aura symptoms **occur in succession**
  3. each individual aura symptom lasts **5-60 minutes**<sup>1</sup>
  4.  $\geq 1$  aura symptom is **unilateral**<sup>2</sup>
  5.  $\geq 1$  aura symptom is **positive**<sup>3</sup>
  6. the aura is accompanied / followed by headache (< 60 minutes)
- D. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis



## Visual aura

- Most common type of aura (95%)

### Positive symptoms

- phosphenes, flashing light, fortification signs

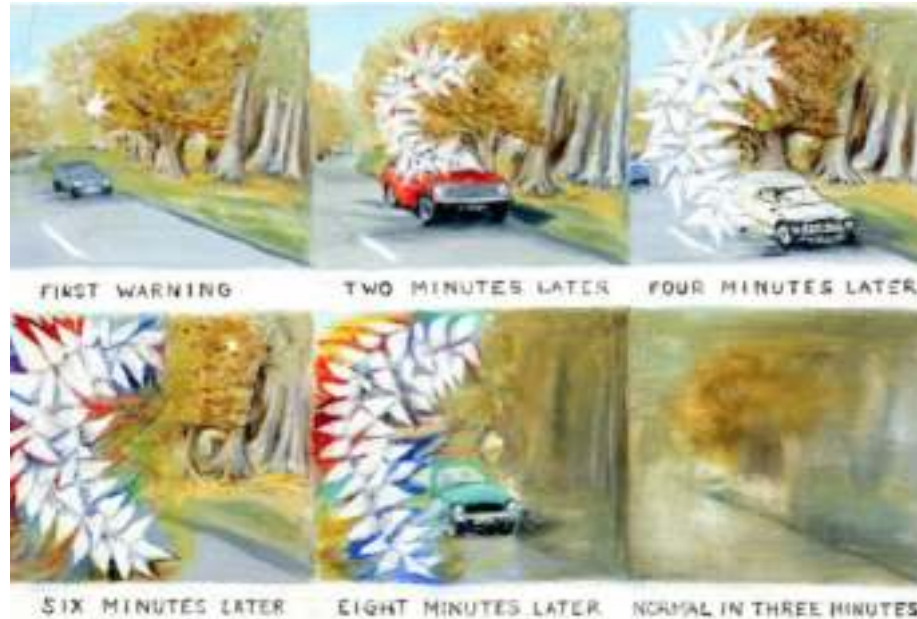
### Negative symptoms

- scotoma, loss of visual field (hemianopsia, quadratopsia)



Elementary Visual Symptoms of aura	Frequency (range %)
1. Flashes of bright light / unformed flashes of light / star-shaped figures	16-38
2. Foggy/blurred vision or "dimness"	25-54
3. Zigzag or jagged lines	24-81
4. Scotoma	23-77
5. Blind spots (scotomata)	32
6. Black dots	3-17
7. Phosphenes (small bright dots)	19-70
8. Flickering light	12-91
9. Like looking through heat waves or water	6-24
10. Visual snow	7
11. White Spots	7-22
12. 'Bean-like' forms like a crescent or C-shaped	7
13. Hemianopsia	6-24
14. Deformed images (alteration of line/ angles) / Metamorphopsia	2-6
15. Tunnel vision	4-27
16. Curved or circular lines	4-18
17. Round forms	12
18. Colored dots / spots of light	3-19
19. Oscillopsia /autokinesis (movement of stationary objects)	2-4
20. Like a mosaic	13
21. Fractured Vision	1
22. Corona phenomena	2-18
23. Anopia	1-2
24. Things look farther away than they really are	1-13
25. Things look closer than they really are	1-3
26. Macropsia (things look larger than they really are)	1-3
27. Micropsia (things look smaller than they really are)	2-4
28. "Like a negative of film"	1
29. "Slanted vision"	1
30. Complex hallucinations	1-3





### Sensory symptoms (35%)

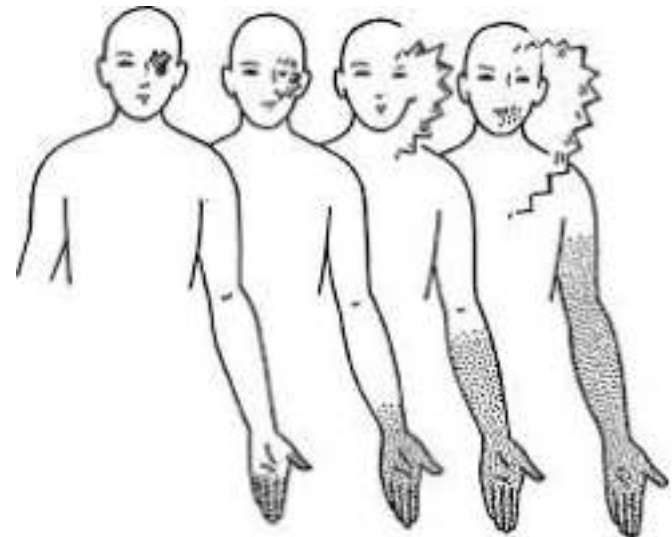
- Positive symptoms (paresthesia) followed by negative symptoms
- 65% paresthesia
- 20% paresthesia → hypoesthesia/anesthesia

### Motor symptoms (18%)

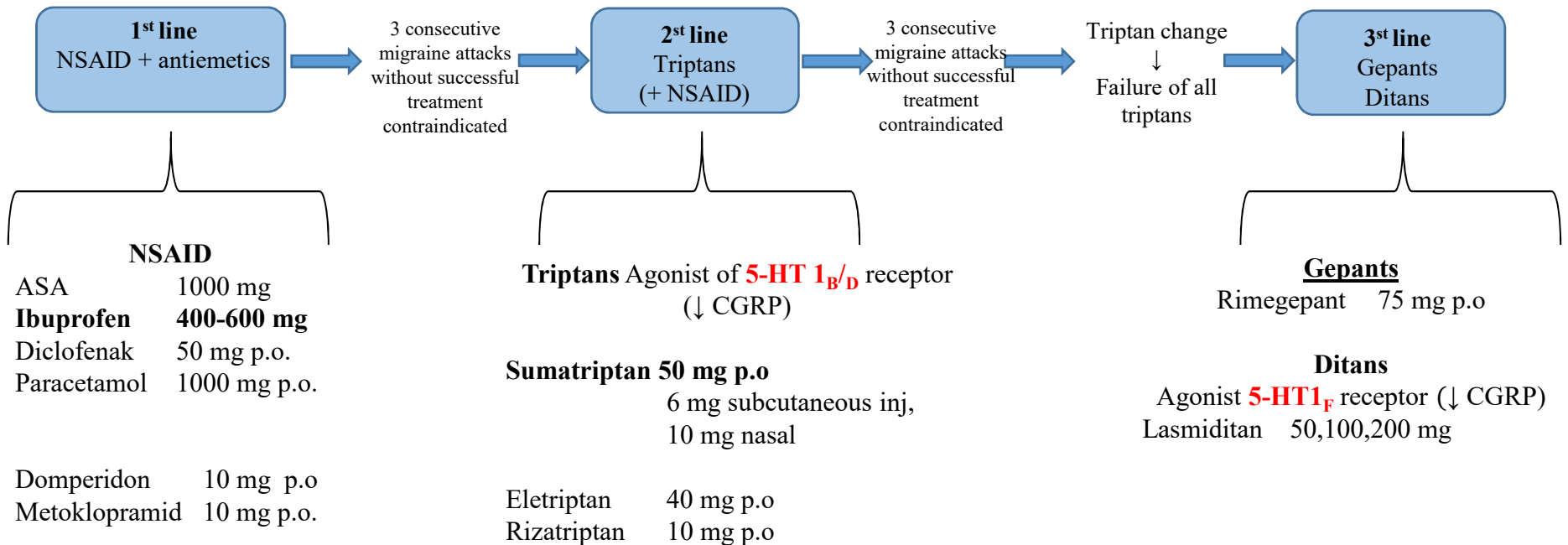
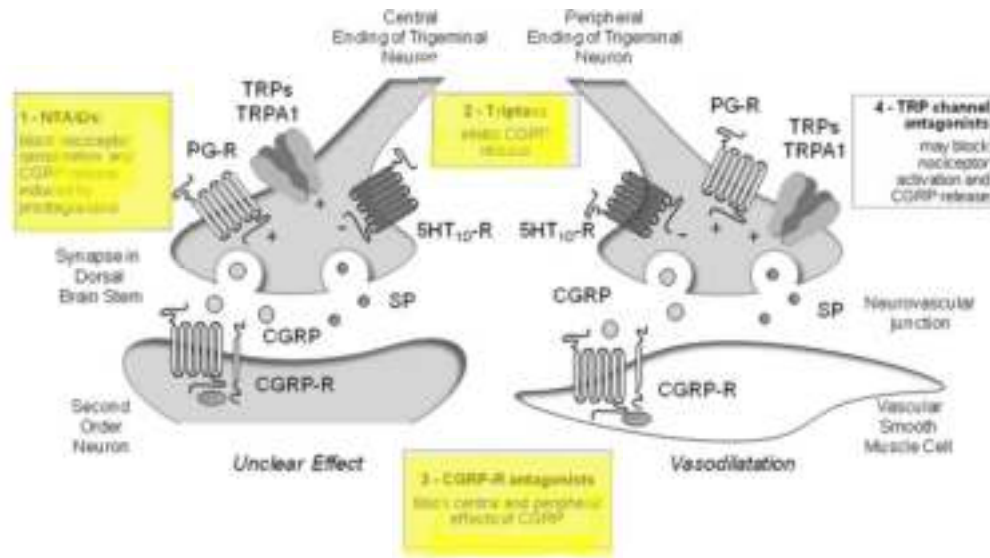
- Feelings of heavy limbs
- Hemiparesis in hemiplegic migraine (sporadic/familial)
- Dx ischemic stroke

### Speech aura (17-20%)

- Expression disorders (difficulty finding words, articulation)



# I. Acute treatment of migraine



Drug	T <sub>max</sub> (Hours)	Elimination Half-Life (Hours)	Hour Headache Relief	NNT: 2 Hour Pain Free	Dose (mg)†	Dosage Interval (If Repeated) and Maximum Daily Dose‡
Acetaminophen	0.5-1	2	5.0	12	1000	Every 4 hours, max. 4000 mg
Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) (tablet)	1-2	ASA: 0.25 Salicylate (active): 5-6 (after 1 g dose)	4.9	8.1	975-1000	Every 4-6 hours; max: 5.4 g/day (varies depending on indication)
ASA (effervescent)	~20 minutes	as above			975-1000	Every 4 hours; max: 8 (325 mg) tablets
Ibuprofen (tablet)	1-2	2			400	Every 4 h; max: 2400 mg
Ibuprofen (solubilized)	<1	2	3.2	7.2	400	Every 4 hours; max: 2400 mg
Naproxen sodium‡	2	14	6.0	11	500-550 (up to 825 mg)	Twice a day; max: 1375 mg
Diclofenac potassium (tablet)	<1	2	6.2	8.9	50	3-4 times a day; max: 150 mg
Diclofenac potassium (powder for oral solution)	15 min	2	5.1	7.4	50	Single dose recommended for migraine attack

†For acute migraine treatment, only 1 or 2 doses are usually recommended; doses are for adults.

‡Absorbed more quickly than naproxen.

T<sub>max</sub> = time to maximum plasma concentration; NNT = number needed to treat: the number of patients that must be treated to obtain a response on a given end point over and above the response rate obtained from placebo.

## Acute medication for migraine attack treatment

(Attention: limit intake to <10/15 days/ month)

### Treatment of nausea / vomiting:

Metoclopramide 10mg oral/ if necessary supp.  
or  
Domperidone 10mg oral

### Analgesics (oral):

- ASA 1000mg (ASA 900mg + MCP 10mg)
- Ibuprofen 200mg/400mg/600mg
- Metamizole 1000mg
- Diclofenac potassium 50mg/100mg
- Combination analgesics: 2 tablets ASA 250mg/265mg + Paracetamol/Acetaminophen 200mg/265mg + caffeine 50mg/65mg

In case of contraindications against NSAIDs:  
Paracetamol/Acetaminophen 1000mg oral  
or  
Metamizole 1000mg oral

### For (moderate) and severe migraine attacks and (known) lack of response to analgesics

### Triptan therapy:

fast onset of action:

- Sumatriptan 6mg s.c.
- Eletriptan 20mg/ 40mg/80mg oral
- Rizatriptan 5mg/10mg oral
- Zolmitriptan 5mg nasal-spray

moderately fast onset & longer lasting effect:

- Sumatriptan 50mg/100mg oral
- Zolmitriptan 2,5mg/ 5mg oral
- Almotriptan 12,5mg oral

slow onset with long-lasting duration of action:

- Naratriptan 2.5mg oral
- Frovatriptan 2.5mg oral

If monotherapy is insufficient:  
Triptan + NSAIDs  
(Naproxen 1000mg)

For recurrence of headache:

Re-administration of a triptan after at least 2h  
or

Initial combination therapy triptan + long-acting NSAID (e.g. Naproxen)

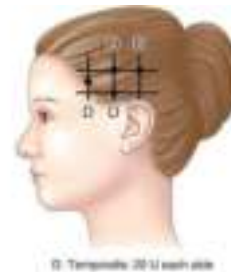
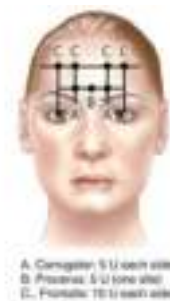
## II. Preventive migraine treatment

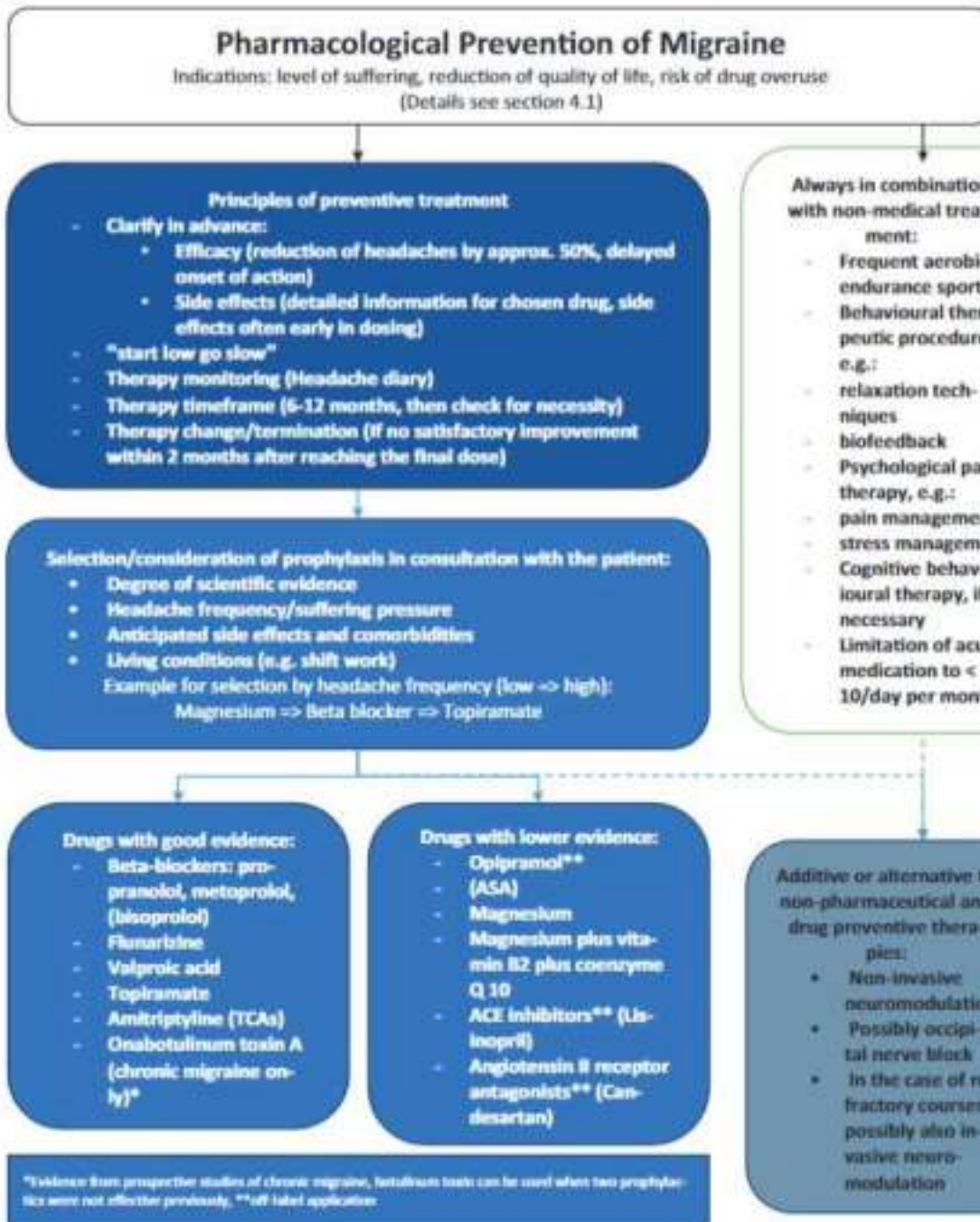
### Indications:

- Migraines lasting > 72 hours
- Ineffectiveness/contraindication of acute treatment
- Migraine negatively affecting the quality of life
- Rare forms of aura (hemiplegic migraine)

	Monthly migraine days				
Disability	2	3	4-5	6-10	11-14
None	-	-	<u>to consider</u>	to suggest	to suggest
Some	-	<u>to consider</u>	to suggest	to suggest	to suggest
Severe (bed rest)	<u>to consider</u>	to suggest	to suggest	to suggest	to suggest

- Antiepileptics (topiramate, valproate)
- Beta-blockers (metoprolol)
- Antidepressants (amitriptyline)
- Serotonin antagonists (pizotifen)
- Botulinum toxin (BOTOX; chronic migraine)





\*Evidence from prospective studies of chronic migraine, botulinum toxin can be used when two prophylactics were not effective previously. \*\*off-label application

# Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) in the **preventive** treatment of migraine

- They bind to the CGRP receptor or to the peptide itself (CGRP)

## Receptor antibodies

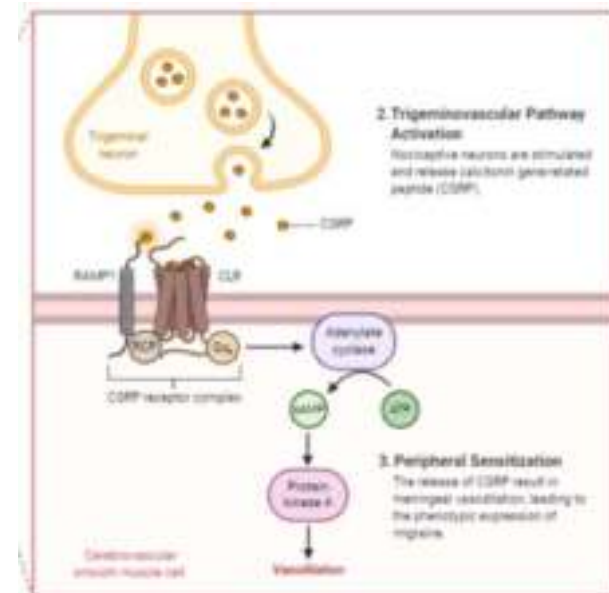
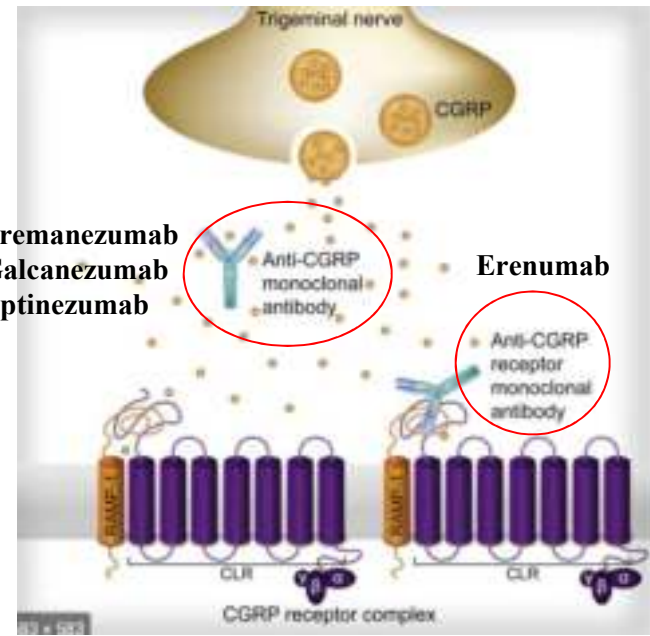
- Erenumab (sc)

## Ligand antibodies

- Fremanezumab (s.c.)
- Galcanezumab (sc)
- Eptinezumab (IV)

## Advantages

- Low rate of side effects
- Administration once a month (every 3 months, AJOVY)
- The only specific preventive therapy



## Medication overuse headache (MOH)



1-2% of the global population suffers from MOH  
1% of the population in Europe (Greece 0.7%)  
11-70% of patients with chronic HD have MOH

- the risk of MOH is only in patients with a history of headache
- 101 patients with rheumatological disease and daily use of analgesics, when only 8 patients (7.6%) developed MOH and all had a history of migraine

Each of the criteria A–C needs to be filled for the diagnosis.

A. Headache on  $\geq 15$  days/month in a patient with a preexisting headache disorder

B. Regular overuse of acute and/or symptomatic headache drugs for  $> 3$  months of:

1. Ergotamines, opioids, triptans or combination of analgesics on  $\geq 10$  days/ month
2. Simple analgesics (paracetamol/acetaminophen, acetylsalicylic acid, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) on  $\geq 15$  days/month
3. Any combination of the above-mentioned drugs, or one or more medications other than those mentioned above, taken for acute or symptomatic treatment of headache on  $\geq 10$  days/month

C. The headache cannot be better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis

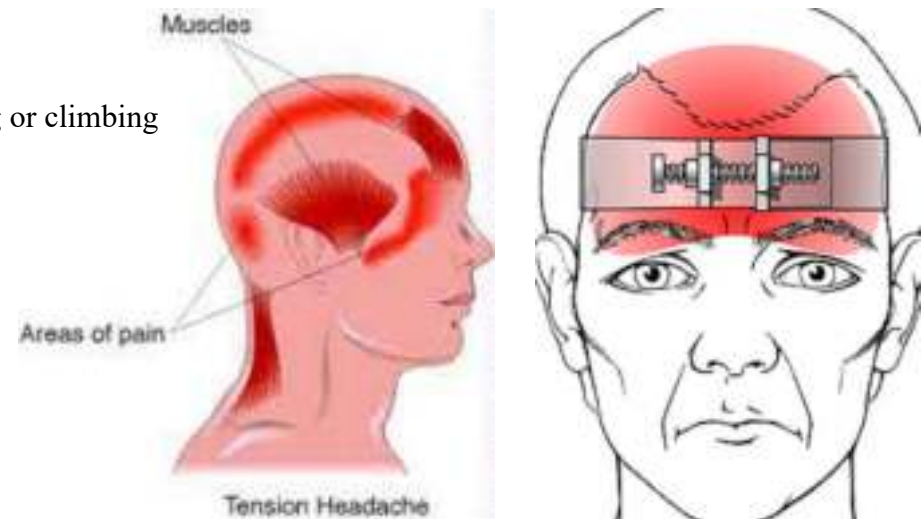


## 2. Tension type headache

- The most common headache (annual prevalence 40%)
- Most common in the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of life
- Episodic or chronic (>15 days/month)
- Often described as a **band around head, weight on the head**, gradually becomes daily (chronic)

### Diagnostic criteria:

- At least **10 episodes** of headache occurring on <1 day/month on average fulfilling criteria B-D
- Lasting from 30 minutes to 7 days
- At least two of the following four characteristics:
  - bilateral** location
  - pressing / tightening** (non-pulsating)
  - mild / moderate** intensity
  - not aggravated by routine physical activity such as walking or climbing stairs
- Both of the following:
  - no nausea or vomiting
  - no more than one of photophobia or phonophobia
- Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis<sup>1</sup>.



### TTH treatment

#### I. Acute treatment of TTH

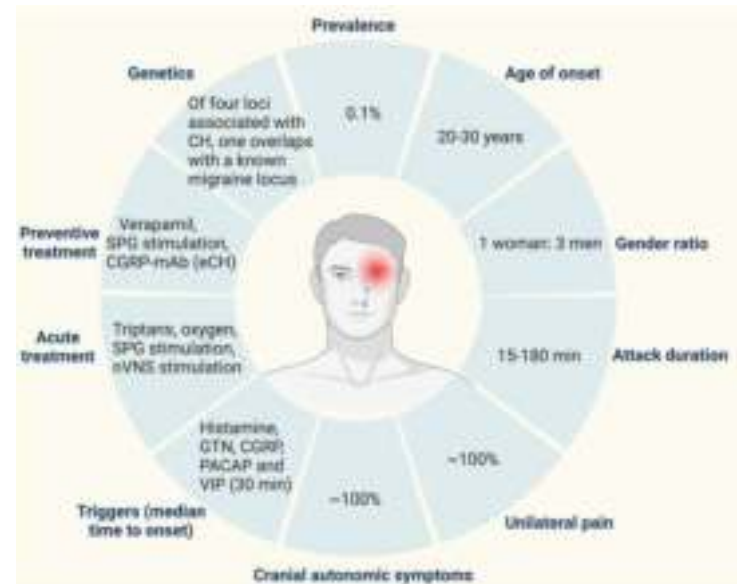
- Analgesics (acetylsalicylic acid, paracetamol, NSAID)

#### II. Preventive treatment of TTH

- High frequency (>7 days) or chronic (>15 days)
- Non-pharmacological procedures (physiotherapy)
- Pharmacological treatment (**amitriptyline/venlafaxine** - antidepressants)

## Cluster headache

- Rare (0.1% in the population)
- M:F=3:1 (average age 30 years)
- Circadian rhythm (between 1-3 a.m.) → awaking
- Average of 1-2 attacks / day (75-88%)
- Cluster period lasts on avr. 8-9 weeks
- Attack lasts on avr. 100 minutes



- A. **≥ 5 attacks** fulfilling criteria B-D
- B. **Severe / very severe unilateral orbital, supraorbital** and/or temporal pain lasting **15-180 minutes** (when untreated)<sup>1</sup> vs. **migraine (4-72 hours)**
- C. Either or both of the following:
- A. **≥ 1** of the following symptoms or signs, ipsilateral to the HD :
1. conjunctival injection and/or lacrimation
  2. nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhoea
  3. eyelid oedema
  4. forehead and facial sweating
  5. miosis and/or ptosis
- B. a sense of **restlessness/agitation**
- D. Occurring with a frequency between one every other day and 8 / day<sup>2</sup>
- E. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis.



## Treatment

### Acute (abortive)

- O<sub>2</sub> inhalation (8 L/min ... 10 min.)
- Sumatriptan (subcutaneous/nasal)

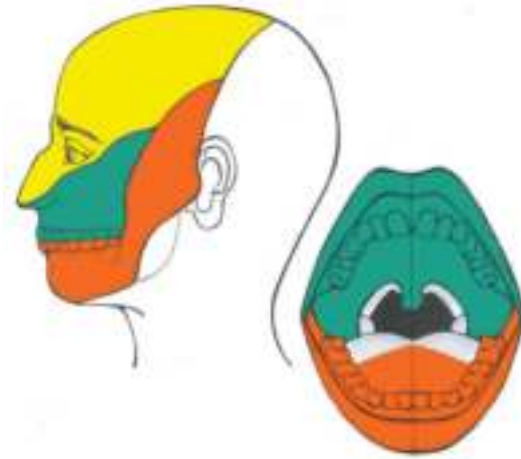
### Preventive treatment

- start low go slow
- 1<sup>st</sup> verapamil
- 2<sup>nd</sup> topiramate
- Other: lithium



# Trigeminal neuralgia (TN)

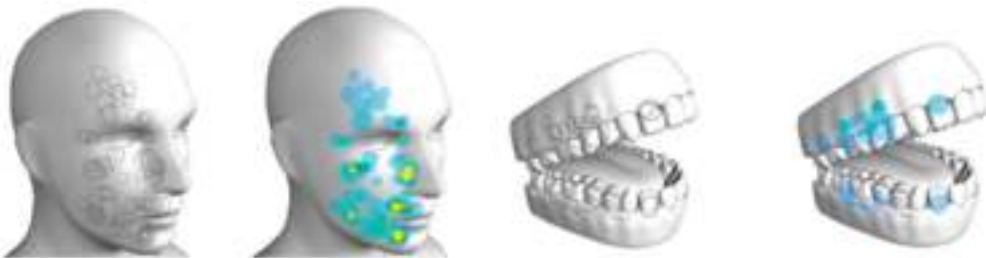
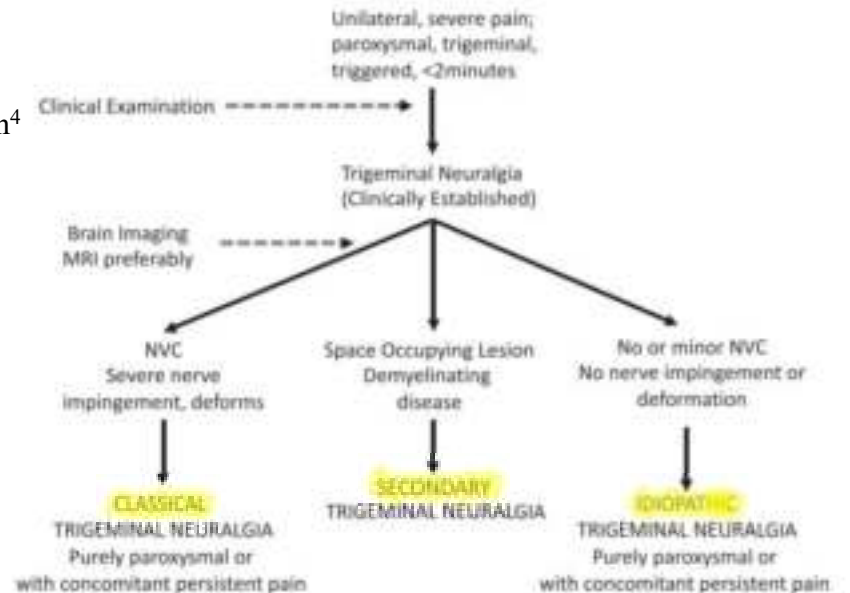
- More frequent in **older** patients (50-60 years; incidence ↑ with age)
- F:M=2:1, bilateral 2-5%
- **Sharp, electrifying, stabbing** pain (70-95%)
- **Severe** intensity (VAS 9/10)
- Mostly **V2** branch (V3...V1)
- **Triggers** (chewing, shaving, cold air, touch)



## Dx criteria:

- Recurrent paroxysms of **unilateral** facial pain in the distribution(s) of **one or more divisions of the trigeminal nerve** (no radiation beyond) and fulfilling criteria B and C
- Pain has all of the following characteristics:
  - lasting from a fraction of a **second to 2 minutes**<sup>2</sup>
  - severe intensity**<sup>3</sup>
  - electric shock-like**, shooting, stabbing or sharp in quality
- Precipitated by innocuous stimuli within the affected trigeminal distribution<sup>4</sup>
- Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis.

- A. Classical TN
- B. Secondary TN
- C. Idiopathic TN



# Dx of trigeminal neuralgia

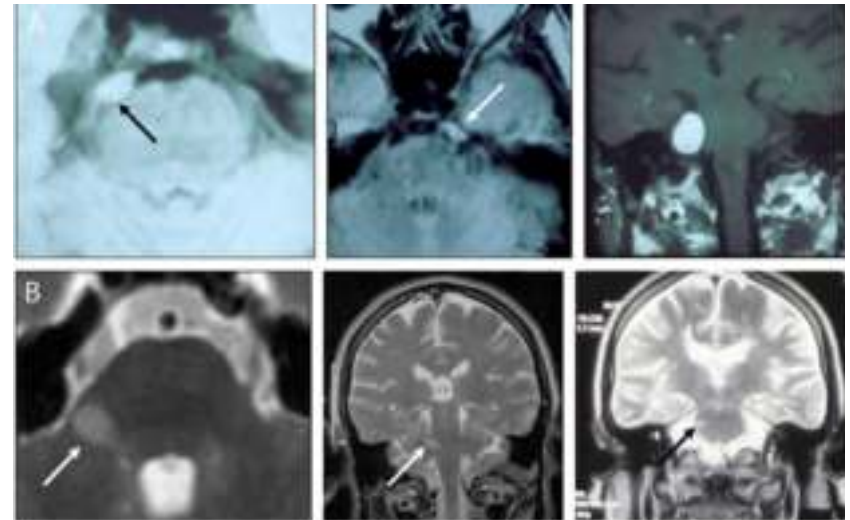
## 1. Brain MRI with contrast (+MR angiography)

It excludes focal lesions in the area of the brainstem

- Tumor (meningioma)
- Demyelination (multiple sclerosis)

It excludes neurovascular conflict

- Contact of n.V with superior cerebellar a. (SCA)/ anterior inferior cerebellar a.(AICA)

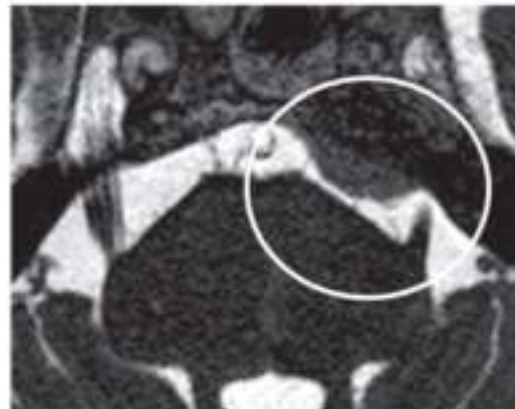


Classical TN



Compression of left trigeminal nerve by arterial loop of AICA (arrow)

Secondary TN



Compression of left trigeminal nerve by meningioma

### Dental causes

- ▶ Dental caries
- ▶ Pulpitis
- ▶ Dental sensitivity
- ▶ Periodontal disorders
- ▶ Pericoronitis
- ▶ Cracked tooth
- ▶ Alveolar osteitis

### Sinus causes

- ▶ Maxillary sinusitis

### Salivary gland causes

- ▶ Salivary stone

### Temporomandibular joint causes

- ▶ Temporomandibular disorders

### Neuropathic pain

- ▶ Glossopharyngeal neuralgia
- ▶ Nervus intermedius neuralgia
- ▶ Post-herpetic neuralgia
- ▶ Post-traumatic trigeminal neuropathy
- ▶ Painful trigeminal neuropathies
- ▶ Atypical odontalgia
- ▶ Burning mouth syndrome

### Trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias

- ▶ SUNCT/SUNA
- ▶ Paroxysmal hemicrania
- ▶ Cluster headache
- ▶ Hemicrania continua

### Other

- ▶ Persistent idiopathic facial pain
- ▶ Primary stabbing headache

# Treatment of trigeminal neuralgia

## I. Pharmacological (treatment of neuropathic pain)

- 1. Carbamazepine
- 2. Gabapentin, pregabalin

## II. Non-pharmacological

- Microvascular decompression
- In case of proven neurovascular conflict

### Gamma Knife surgery

- In the absence of NV conflict
- Pharmaco-resistant forms
- Superficial, deep (brain stem area)

### Intervention methods

- Balloon compression
- Radiofrequency thermoablation

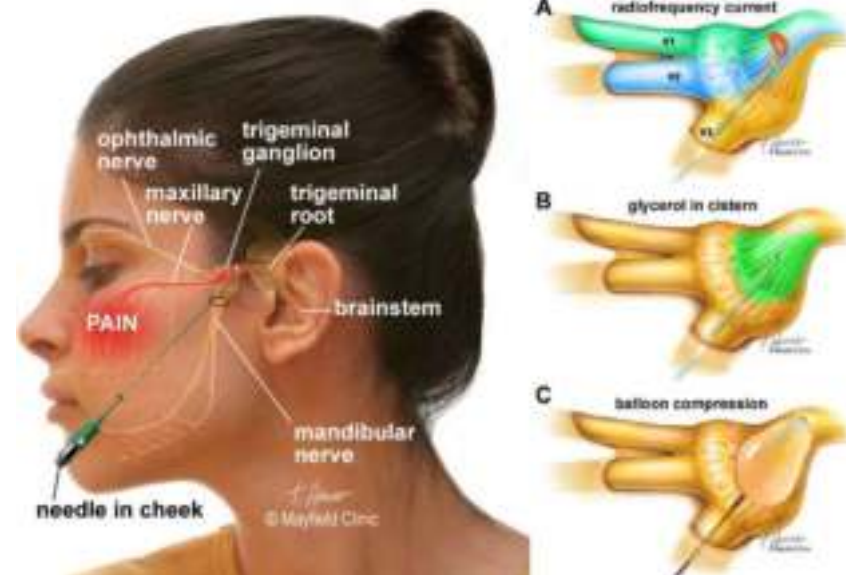


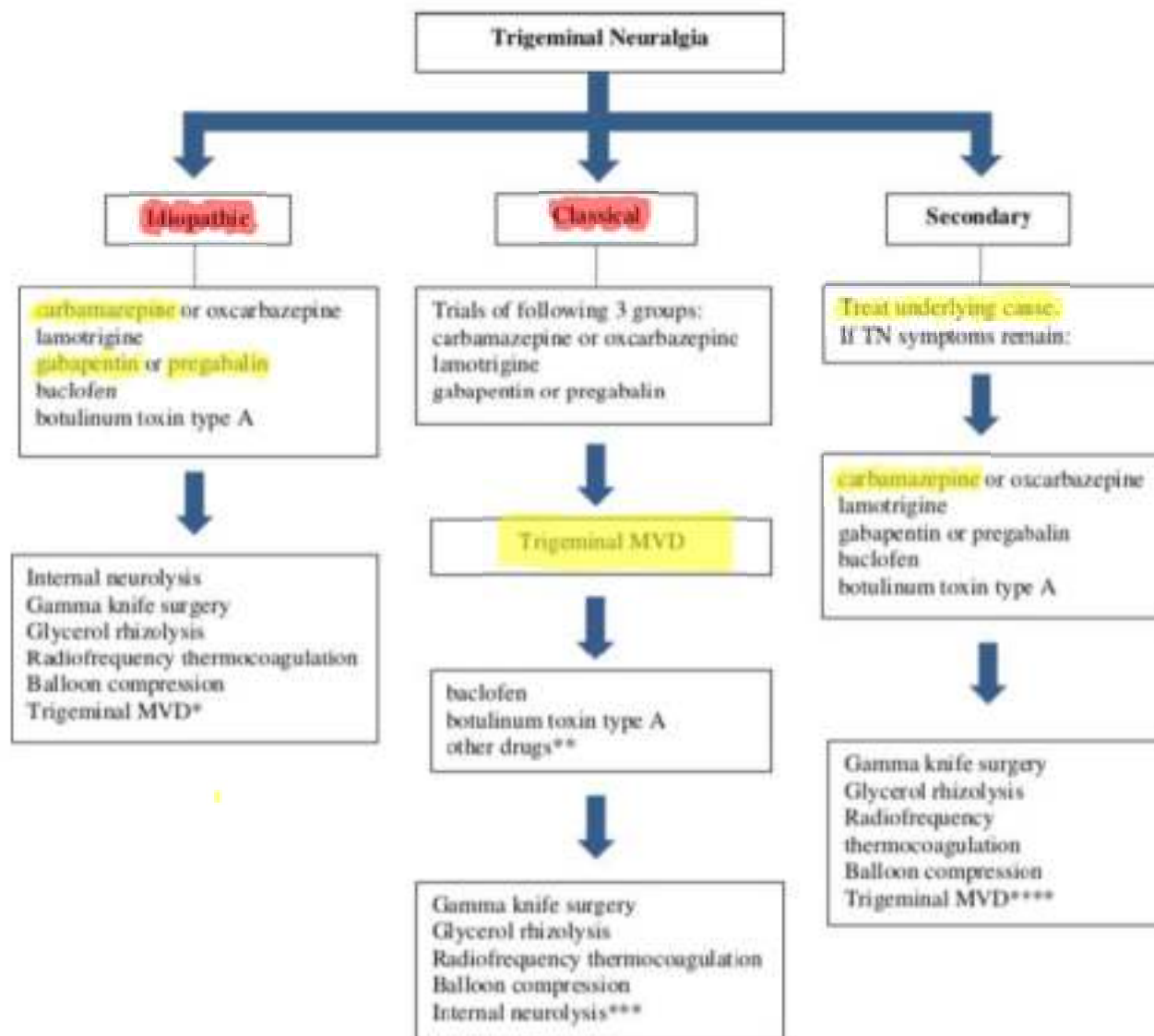
Mikrovaskulárna dekompresia

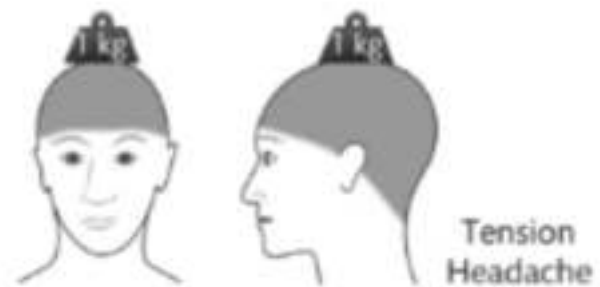
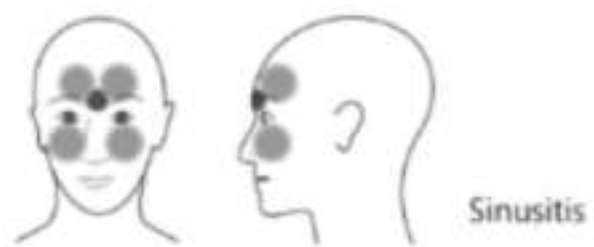
Drug	Initial dose (mg)	Target dose (mg)*	#Dose increase (titration)	Schedule
Carbamazepine	100-200	1200-1800	100-200 mg/2 days	x2-4/days
Carbamazepine-CR	200-400	1200	Usually transfer from regular format at equivalent dose	x2/days
OXC	300	1200-2400	300-600 mg/week	x2-3/days
Baclofen	5-15	30-60	5 mg/3 days	x3/days
Gabapentin	300	900-2400	300 mg/2-3 days	x3/days
Pregabalin	150	300-600	50 mg/2-3 days	x2-3/days
Lamotrigine	25	400-600	25-50 mg/week	x1-2/days

Abbreviations: CR, controlled release; OXC, oxcarbazepine; X, number of times daily.

\*Titrate according to response and side effects.







# Giant (temporal) cell arteritis

- Horton's arteritis, granulomatous arteritis (GCA - giant cell arteritis)
- Systemic inflammatory diseases manifested by ophthalmological as well as neurological symptoms
- Affects medium to small caliber blood vessels (temporal superficial artery → temporal arteritis)
- May affect ophthalmic artery, vertebral artery
- 0.5-27/ 100,000 (> 50 years) → rarely < 50 years
- F:M=3.7:1 (average age 75 years)

## Generalised symptoms

- Systemic inflammatory disease
- Low grade fever (40%), fatigue, anorexia, weight loss

## Jaw claudication (30% of patients)

## Headache (≥ 75%)

- Mostly temporal (may be occipital, periorbital, holocranial)
- They progress gradually
- Local sensitivity of the scalp (pain when combing)

## Neurological symptoms (TIA/stroke 30%)

## Visual symptoms (15%)

- Vasculitis of ophthalmic artery → transient vision loss (amaurosis fugax)
- Partial/complete/permanent

## Dx

- ↑ inflammatory parameters (CRP, Leu, IL-6)
- Biopsy (granulomatous inflammation)
- MRI manifestations of inflammation in the vessel

## Tx

- Corticosteroids (iv., p.o.)
- Immunosuppressants (methotrexate)





Thank you for your  
attention

