

# Management of Migraine

A. Laine green MSC MD FRCPC

Assistant Professor

Department of Medicine (Neurology)

# Disclosures

- I have received honoraria, consulting fees, and/or speaking fees from
  - Allergan Canada
    - Onabotulinum Toxin A (Botox™)
    - FDA & Health Canada approved for the prophylactic treatment of Chronic Migraine
  - Tribute Pharmaceuticals
    - Diclofenac Potassium (Cambia™)
    - FDA & Health Canada approved for the acute treatment Migraine
  - Aralez
    - Sumatriptan + Naproxen Sodium (Treximet™)
    - FDA approved for the acute treatment of Migraine
  - TEVA
    - Fremanezumab (Ajovy™)
    - FDA approved for the prophylactic treatment of Migraine
  - Novartis
    - Erenumab (Aimovig™)
    - FDA & Health Canada approved for the prophylactic treatment of Migraine
  - Eli Lilly
    - Galcanezumab (Emgality™)
    - FDA approved for the prophylactic treatment of Migraine

**i will be mentioning these treatments**

# Migraine

- 10-15 % of the population
- underdiagnosed
- 100x more common than MS
- More common than DM + OA + Asthma
- In the top 10 of diseases with years lost to disability – world wide
  - More than stroke, brain tumors, dementia, Parkinsons, MS, Epilepsy
- 10% would make different choices about having children
- 40% would be a better parent

# Chronic Migraine

- 0.9% and 1.4% of the population
- 11,678 in Nova Scotia
- Less than 1/3 work full time
- 1 in 5 can't work
- Use a lot of resources
  - Family MD, specialist visits, pain clinic visits, ERs
  - \$1,884 per patient per year
    - \$22 million a year to the Nova Scotia health care system

# 4 questions of Neurology

- Is it neurological?
- Where in the neuro-axis is the problem?
- What is causing the problem?
- What can we do about it?

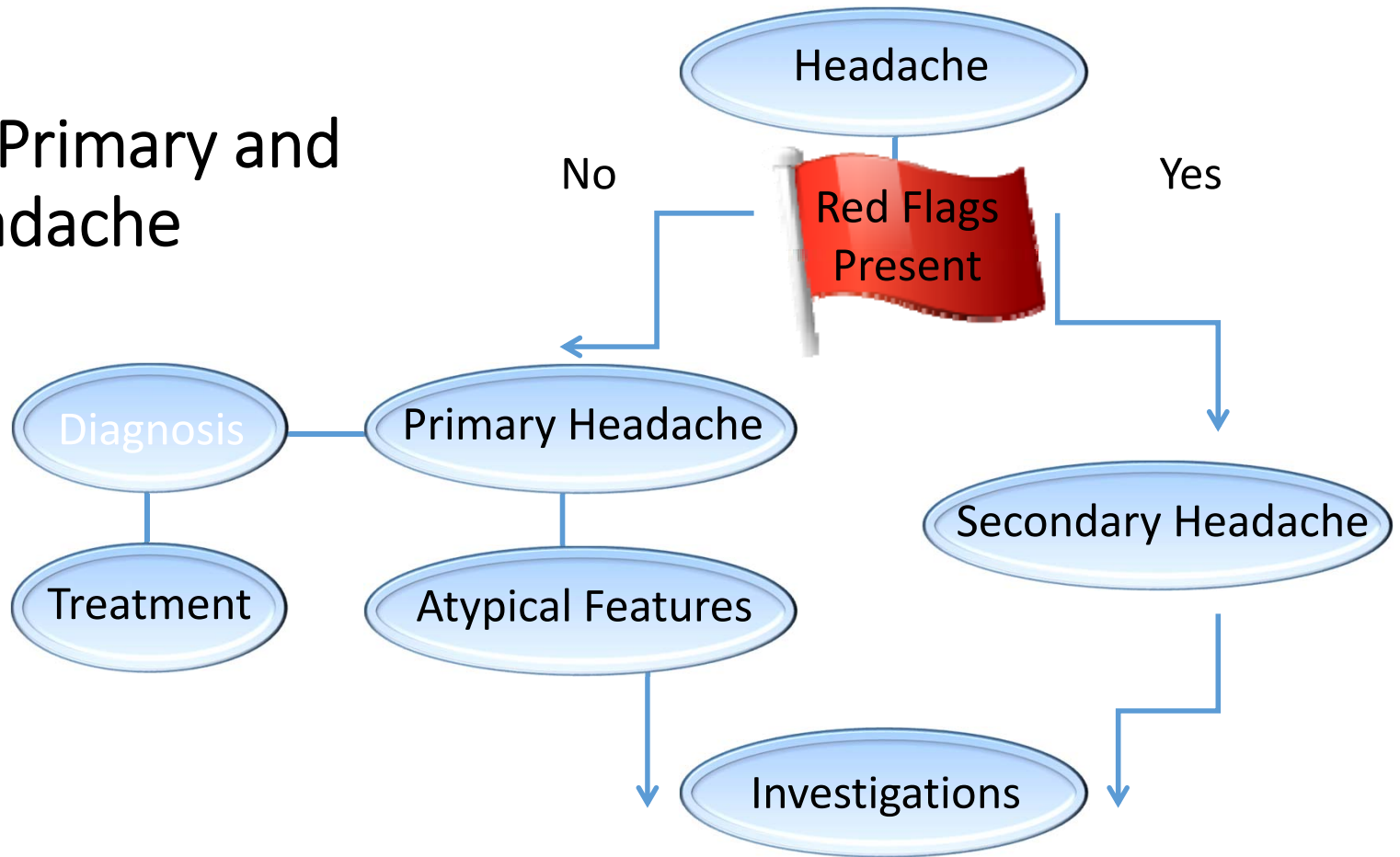
Additional 2 questions of Headache

**PRIMARY**

**OR**

**SECONDARY**

# Distinguishing Primary and Secondary Headache Disorders



# Red Flags– SNOOP<sup>5</sup> - Secondary Causes

<b>S</b>	<b>Systemic or 2<sup>o</sup> Risks</b>	Fever, weight loss, night sweats, other systemic symptoms Secondary Risk Factors: Cancer, HIV
<b>N</b>	<b>Neurologic Deficits</b> <i>or abnormal signs</i>	Focal neurologic deficit Confusion Impaired/altered LOC Side locked headache
<b>O</b>	<b>Onset</b>	Thunderclap
<b>O</b>	<b>Older</b>	> 50 yo > 60 yo is GCA until proven otherwise
<b>P<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>Previous Headache History</b>	First Headache Different Headache – change in Hz, severity, clinical features
<b>P<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>Postural or Positional Aggravation</b>	CSF pressure too high or too low
<b>P<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>Precipitated by Valsalva</b>	Cough, bend, sneeze, lift, other bearing down Exertional headaches
<b>P<sub>4</sub></b>	<b>Papilledema/Pulsatile Tinnitus</b>	Vision Change and/or loss – IIH, increased ICP
<b>P<sub>5</sub></b>	<b>Pregnancy/Peri Partem</b>	Preeclampsia, Hypercoagulable, CSF leaks, treatment selection



# Thunderclap Headache

- **Subarachnoid Hemorrhage**
  - Sentinel headache
- **Reversible Cerebral Vasoconstriction Syndrome**
- **Cerebral venous thrombosis**
- **Cervical artery dissection**
- **Spontaneous intracranial hypotension**
- Pituitary apoplexy
- Retroclival hematoma
- Stroke, Ischemic or Hemorrhagic
- Acute hypertensive crisis
- Colloid cyst of the third ventricle
- **Infections**
- ~~Primary thunderclap headache~~

# GCA

Most common in patients >70 yrs (85%), F > M

- Presentation:
  - Constitutional symptoms (fever-50%, weight loss, fatigue) - Systemically UNWELL
  - Amaurosis, can progress to bilateral (33% within first few days)
  - NB: Can present with isolated other cranial neuropathy
  - Intermittent diplopia
  - Headache (67%)
  - Jaw/tongue claudication (50%), scalp tenderness
  - PMR (50%) - stiffness and pain (NOT weakness) in the proximal muscles (often in the morning),
- Fundoscopic exam:
  - pale “chalky white edema”, swollen discs, peripapillary hemorrhages, branch or central retinal artery occlusions, cotton wool spots (retinal ischemia)

# GCA

- Diagnosis:
  - temporal artery bx is gold standard
  - ESR - elevated in 98%
  - Thrombocytosis
- Treatment
  - Corticosteroids (DO NOT delay for the biopsy) - consider IV if vision loss
  - ASA
  - Screen for aortic aneurysm
- Prognosis
  - Thrombocytosis is associated with higher risk of permanent vision loss in patients with GCA
  - Permanent partial/complete vision loss in up to 20%

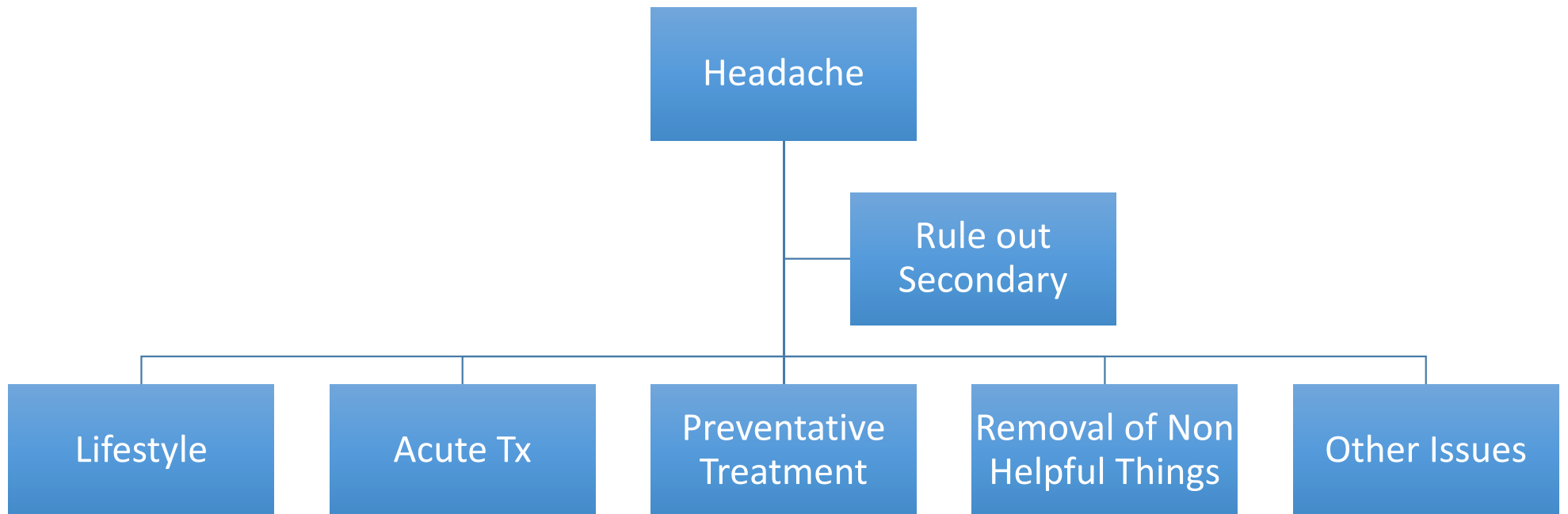
# Top 5 Keys to Success!

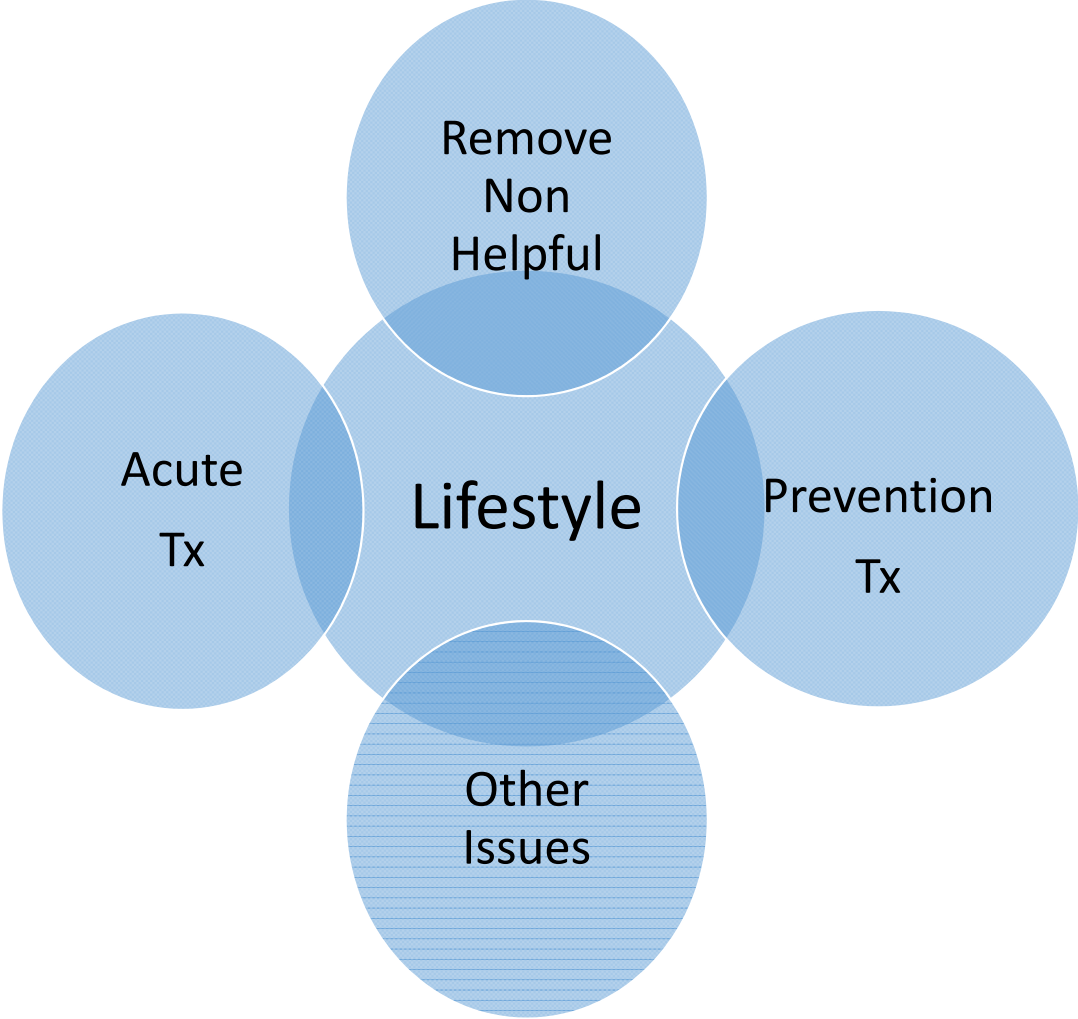
1. Rule out Secondary Causes
  - Identify contributing factors
2. Establish a diagnosis
3. Select an appropriate treatment
4. Set realistic goals and expectations
5. Follow up

## Some contributing factors to consider

- OSA
- TMJD / Bruxism
- Cervical spine DDD
- occipital neuronitis
- Psychiatric comorbidities
- Caffeine ingestion
- Supine hypertension
- Abuse History
- Other pain disorders
- Medication overuse
- Obesity

# Migraine management





Remove  
Non  
Helpful

Acute  
Tx

Lifestyle

Prevention  
Tx

Other  
Issues

Start with a case



## Case : Rebecca

- 18 y.o. with 5 year history of recurrent intermittent stereotyped headaches
- Increasing frequency for the last 18 months
  - Initially 1 per month
  - Current 3-4 headaches per week (12-16 per month)
- Bifrontal and periorbital, occasionally left temporal
  - Throbbing
- Severe pain lasting 4-6 hours
  - Pain peaks within 30 minutes
- Nausea, no vomiting, avoids light and noise, prefers to lie down
- Moderate to severe disability, missing 1-2 days of school per week and requiring bed rest with some headaches

## Case : Rebecca

- Other Associated Symptoms
  - “Blurry” vision during headaches
  - X 6 months
    - wiggly lines and bright round spots over peripheral vision, bilateral
    - 10-15 minutes prior to headache onset
- Headaches triggers
  - Dehydration
  - prolonged computer work
  - sleeping in
  - menses (2 days prior to menstrual period)
- She has a past history of motion sickness, no head injury

## Case : Rebecca

- Recently started using a birth control pill
- Currently on Alesse 21, no known drug allergies
- Family history of migraine (mother, maternal grandmother)
- Parents have recently divorced, no bullying in school, has a boyfriend and is sexually active
- Drinks cola every day, irregular sleep schedule, drinks < 1.5 L per day, only eats breakfast 2-3 days per week
- No tobacco, no street/recreational drugs

# Case: Rebecca

- Tired OTC Analgesics
  - Acetaminophen 500 mg
  - Naproxen 220 mg
- Dimenhydrinate 50 mg
- Propranolol caused exertional SOB
- Amitriptyline caused morning somnolence
  
- Vitals normal, BMI 30
- General and neurological physical exams were normal

# Migraine – ICHD 3

- A. At least **five attacks** fulfilling criteria B–D
- B. Headache attacks lasting **4-72 hours** (untreated or unsuccessfully treated)
- C. Headache has at least **two of the following** four characteristics:
  - 1. unilateral location
  - 2. pulsating quality
  - 3. moderate or severe pain intensity
  - 4. aggravation by or causing avoidance of routine physical activity (e.g. walking or climbing stairs)
- D. During headache **at least one** of the following:
  - 1. nausea and/or vomiting
  - 2. photophobia and phonophobia
- F** ***Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis***

## 3-item ID Migraine™ Screener \*

During the last three months, did you have any of the following with your headaches:

Item	Yes / No
You felt <u>nauseated or sick</u> to your stomach when you had a headache?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Light bothered you</u> (a lot more than when you don't have headaches?)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Your headaches <u>limited your ability</u> to work, study or do what you need to do for at least one day?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

\* A positive response on 2 of 3 questions yields a predictive value of 93%.

Lipton RB *et al.*, *Neurology*. 2003;61(3):375–382.

## Migraine with Aura – ICHD 3

- A. At least **two 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 two** of the following four characteristics:
  1. at least one aura symptom spreads gradually over 5 minutes, and/or two or more symptoms occur in succession
  2. each individual aura symptom lasts 5-60 minutes
  3. at least one aura symptom is unilateral
  4. the aura is accompanied, or followed within 60 minutes, by headache
- D. **Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis, and transient ischemic attack has been excluded.**

# Chronic Migraine

- A. Headache (tension-type-like and/or migraine-like) on  $\geq 15$  days per month for  $> 3$  months and fulfilling criteria B and C
- B. Occurring in a patient who has had at least five attacks fulfilling criteria B-D for 1.1 Migraine without aura and/or criteria B and C for 1.2 Migraine with aura
- C. On  $\geq 8$  days per month for  $> 3$  months, fulfilling any of the following
  1. criteria C and D for 1.1 Migraine without aura
  2. criteria B and C for 1.2 Migraine with aura
  3. believed by the patient to be migraine at onset and relieved by a triptan or ergot derivative
- D. **Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis.**

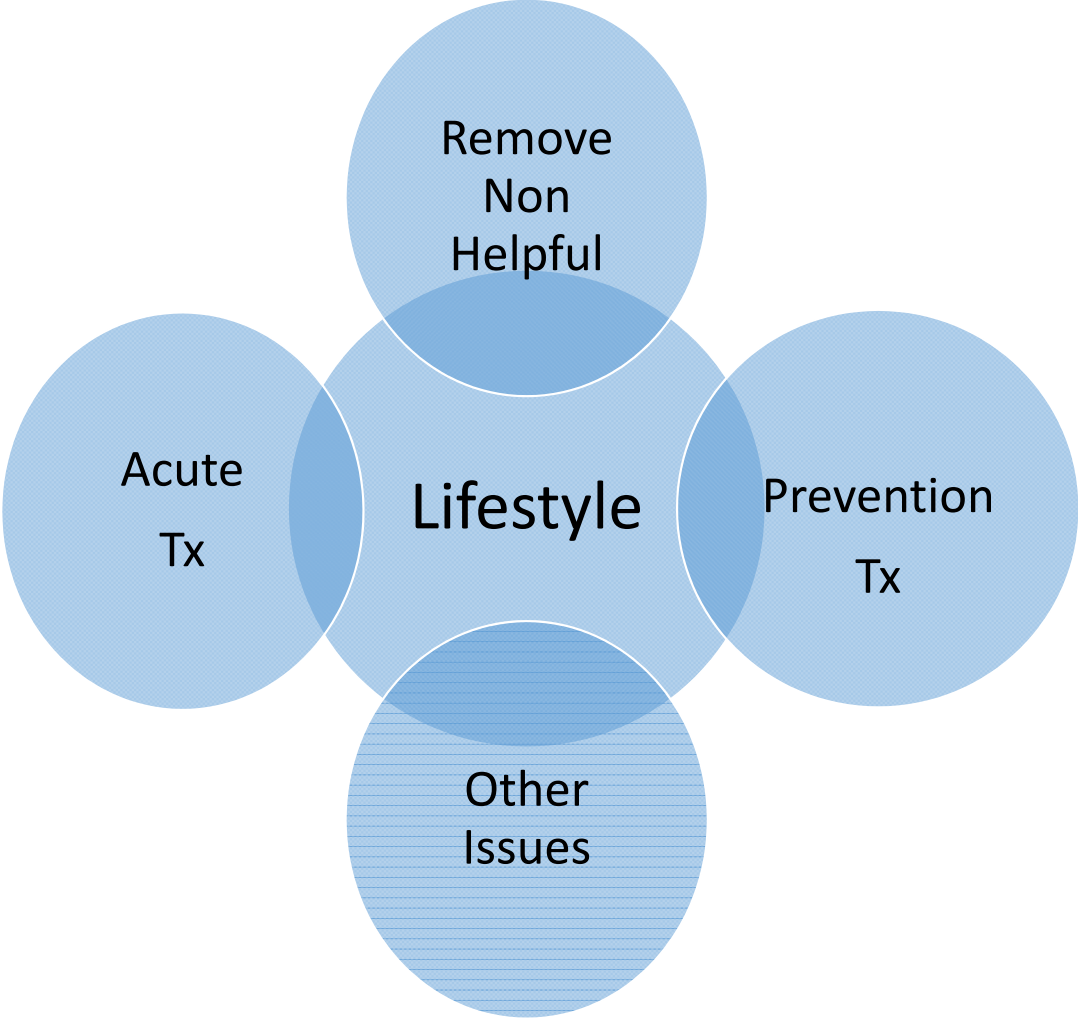


# Menstrually-related migraine

- A. Attacks, in a menstruating woman, fulfilling criteria for Migraine and criterion B below
  
- B. Occurring on day  $1 \pm 2$  (*ie*, days  $-2$  to  $+3$ ) of menstruation in at least two out of three menstrual cycles, and additionally at other times of the cycle

# Other issues

- Excess caffeine
- Possibly dehydrated
- Poor Sleep
- Psychosocial stressors
- Skipping meals
- Pain peaks early
  - 30 minutes
  - Lots of Disability
- OTC not working
- On OCP – and Dx of Migraine with Aura
  - Sexually active with male partner



Remove  
Non  
Helpful

Acute  
Tx

Lifestyle

Prevention  
Tx

Other  
Issues

# Lifestyle

Non Pharmacologic Treatments

# Exercise

- Regular aerobic exercise
- Daily
- 20 minutes
  - Huffing and puffing

# Diet

- No specific diet
- Well balanced
- Canada's Food Guide
- Fresh fruits, vegetables, all food groups
- Portion control
- No skipping meals
  - Protein at every meal
- Avoid food triggers
  - Usually figure out easily
    - Detailed diaries don't add a lot
- Mediterranean diet

# Dehydration

- Headache Trigger
- Goal
  - Urine mostly colourless by mid-morning

# Sleep

- Migraines are negatively affected by sleep alterations
- Too little
- Too much
- Recommend same bedtime and same awake time
  - Everyday!



# Stress

- Stress is one of the biggest / most ubiquitous migraine triggers
- Elimination is impossible
- Management is key
- Mindfulness
- Meditation
- Yoga, Tai Chi
- Psychology
  - CBT, biofeedback
- Paced Breathing
- [www.dawnbuse.com](http://www.dawnbuse.com)

# Headache Diary

- Very Helpful
- Mostly for objective information on:
  - Frequency
  - Severity
  - Medication Use
- Less helpful for:
  - Triggers
- Patients are typically biased based on their most recent history
  - Few weeks

- Paper
- Electronic
  - iHeadache
  - My Migraine Buddy

# Acute Treatment

## Canadian Guidelines

# **Canadian Headache Society Guideline: Acute Drug Therapy for Migraine Headache**

*Irene Worthington<sup>1</sup>, Tamara Pringsheim<sup>3</sup>, Marek J. Gawel<sup>1,8,9</sup>,  
Jonathan Gladstone<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul Cooper<sup>4</sup>, Esma Dilli<sup>5</sup>, Michel Aube<sup>6</sup>,  
Elizabeth Leroux<sup>7</sup>, Werner J. Becker<sup>3</sup> on behalf of the Canadian Headache  
Society Acute Migraine Treatment Guideline Development Group*

**Can J Neurol Sci. 2013; 40: Suppl. 3 - S1-S3**

### **Column A - NSAID**

- Acetaminophen
  - 1000 mg
- ASA
  - 325-1000 mg
- Naproxen
  - 440-500 mg
- Ketoprofen ER
  - 200 mg
- Diclofenac
  - 50 mg
- Celecoxib
  - 100-200 mg

### **Column B - Triptan**

- Rizatriptan
  - 5-10 mg PO or melt
- Sumatriptan
  - 25, 50, 100 mg
  - 20 mg Nasal, 6 mg S/C
- Eletriptan
  - 20, 40 mg
- Almotriptan
  - 6.25, 12.5 mg
- Zolmitriptan
  - 2.5, 5 mg PO or nasal
- Naratriptan
  - 1, 2.5 mg
- Frovatriptan
  - 2.5 mg

### **Column C**

#### **Anti-emetic/Neuroleptic**

- Metoclopramide
  - 10 mg
- Prochlorperazine
  - 10 mg PO
  - 25 mg PR
- Promethazine
  - 25 mg
- Domperidone
  - 10 mg
- Dimenhydrinate
  - 25-50 mg
- Ondansetron
  - 4-8 mg

# What about Rebecca?

- **Pain peaks early!**
- Failed an OTC
  - Inadequate dose?
- Nausea
- Significant disability
  
- Diclofenac Potassium (Cambia)
- Sumatriptan sub cut
  - Nasal sumatriptan or zolmitriptan
- Antiemetic – Domperidone or metoclopramide

# Medication Overuse

- Significant confounder
- 15 days per month for single simple analgesic
- 10 days per month for others or combinations
- Leads to central sensitization
  - Difficult to undo and takes time

# Preventative Treatment



Canadian Guidelines

# Canadian Headache Society Guideline for Migraine Prophylaxis

Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences

Volume 39 Number 2 (Supplement 2) March 2012

*Tamara Pringsheim<sup>1</sup>, W. Jephtha Davenport<sup>1</sup>, Gordon Mackie<sup>2</sup>, Irene  
Worthington<sup>3</sup>, Michel Aubé<sup>4</sup>, Suzanne N. Christie<sup>5</sup>, Jonathan Gladstone<sup>6</sup>,  
Werner J. Becker<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Canadian Headache Society Prophylactic  
Guidelines Development Group*



# Prophylactic Treatment of Migraine

- Medications
  - Supplements or nutraceuticals
  - Optimize selection based on co-morbidities or contributing factors
  - Exploit side effects based on co-morbidities or contributing factors
- Onabotulinum Toxin A (Botox)
- Nerve Blocks
- Devices
  - Cefaly, TMS
- NKOTB – anti CGRP MAb

# Migraine Prevention Oral Tx

- Anti-seizure
  - Sodium divalproex
  - Topiramate
- TCA
  - Amitriptyline
  - Nortriptyline
- SNRI
  - Venlafaxine
  - Duloxetine
- CCB
  - Flunarizine
  - Verapamil
- Beta Blocker
  - Metoprolol
  - Nadolol
  - Propranolol
- ACEi/ARB
  - Ramipril, Lisinopril
  - Candesartan
- Neutraceuticals
  - Mg
  - B2
  - CoQ10
  - Butterbur
  - Feverfew

# What about Rebecca?

- Failed Amitriptyline
- Failed Propranolol
  
- Could Try Nortriptyline
- Likely Topiramate
  - 25 mg QHS for 2-4 weeks
  - 50 mg QHS for 4 weeks
  - Introduce in AM in similar fashion if needed
- I try almost everyone on Mag, Vit B2,  $\pm$  CoQ10

Plan B and C for Rebecca

# Migraine Prevention – Onabotulinum Toxin a - Botox

- Onabotulinum Toxin Type A
- RCT evidence of effectiveness – PREEMPT Trials
- Chronic Migraine
- 155 Units of Onabotulinum Toxin Type A injected
  - 31 sites: Head, Neck and Shoulders

# Newest addition to migraine prevention

Anti CGRP MAbs

# 4 currently

- Erenumab

- Amgen, Novartis in Canada

- Eptinezumab

- Alder

- Galcanezumab

- Lily

- Fremanezumab

- TEVA

} CGRP Receptor

CGRP



# Anti CGRP mabs

- Bottom Line
- All showed significant improvement over placebo for episodic and chronic migraine
  - Reduction in migraine days
  - Reduction in acute medication treatment
  - Decreased disability
- 50% responder rates
  - 25-60%
- 75% responder rates
  - 10-40%
- Few super responders

# Nerve Blocks

# Migraine Prevention - Stimulator

Neurology®

**Migraine prevention with a supraorbital transcutaneous  
stimulator: A randomized controlled trial**

Jean Schoenen, Bart Vandersmissen, Sandrine Jeanette, et al.

*Neurology* 2013;80:697-704 Published Online before print February 6, 2013

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182825055

# Transcranial magnetic stimulation

## Other issues

- Excess caffeine
  - Possibly dehydrated
  - Poor Sleep
  - Psychosocial stressors
  - Skipping meals
  - Pain peaks early
    - 30 minutes
    - Lots of Disability
  - OTC not working
  - **On OCP – and Dx of Migraine with Aura**
    - Sexually active with male partner

# Excess Caffeine

- Caffeine has pain relieving properties
- Headache/migraine relieving properties
- Component of OTC combo analgesics
- Therefore it can be overused
- Medication Overuse Headache
  
- Gradual cessation
  - caffeine withdrawal is unpleasant and a migraine trigger
  - Over 1-2 months

# OCP and Migraine

- Migraine with Aura
  - Doubles stroke risk
  - Women only
    - Women's Health Study
- Young woman with no vascular risk factors have a low stroke risk
- OCP and stroke risk
  - Best evidence from older OCP data (100 µg Estrogen era)
- Migraine with Aura + smoking + OCP
  - NO GO
- Migraine with Aura + HRT
  - NO GO

# Rebecca

- Followed lifestyle recommendations
- Cambia + Sumatriptan + Metacloperamide
  - Worked really well
- Topiramate failed after about 6 months
- Onabotulinum Toxin A
  - Reduced headache frequency to 4-6 per month
  - All responsive to acute treatment
- Weaned off Caffeine
- She and her boyfriend elected to use barrier methods
  - IUD



# Top 5 Keys to Success!

1. Rule out Secondary Causes
  - Identify contributing factors
2. Establish a diagnosis
3. Select an appropriate treatment
4. Set realistic goals and expectations
5. Follow up

## Rebecca - continued

- Does well on the treatment recommendations
- Presents to the local emergency department
- Prolonged headache
- Started as her usual migraine
- Did not respond to her acute treatments
- Has had a headache for 4 days
  - Functioning poorly
- No new illness, not pregnant, no new meds, normal exam

# Status migrainosis

## Description:

- A debilitating migraine attack lasting for more than 72 hours.

## Diagnostic criteria:

- A. A headache attack fulfilling criteria B and C
- B. Occurring in a patient with 1.1 *Migraine without aura* and/or 1.2 *Migraine with aura*, and typical of previous attacks except for its duration and severity
- C. Both of the following characteristics:
  1. unremitting for >72 hours
  2. pain and/or associated symptoms are debilitating
- D. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis.

## Notes:

- Remissions of up to 12 hours due to medication or sleep are accepted

# Approach

- Outpatient strategy
  - NSAIDS +/- long acting Triptan
  - Steroid Taper
- Emergency Department strategy
  - Parental access and monitoring available

# Outpatient

- NSAID +/- Long Acting Triptan
- Naproxen 500 mg BID for 14 days
- Nabumetone 500 mg PID for 14 days
- Mefanamic Acid 500 mg TID for 14 days
- Frovatriptan 2.5 mg BID for 5 days

# Outpatient

- Steroids
- Prednisone
  - 60 mg for 3-5 days
  - 50 mg 2d, 40 mg 2d, 30 mg 2d, 20 mg 2d, 10 mg 2 d, 5 mg 2d, stop
- Dexamethasone
  - 10 mg 2 d, 8 mg 2d, 6 mg 2d, 4 mg 2d, 2 mg 2d, 1 mg 2d, stop
- Side effects
- Consider PPI or H2 Blocker

# Emergency Department - Parenteral

- First Line

- Fluids
  - NS 1-2 L
- Magnesium Sulfate 1 g
- Toradol 30 mg
- Benadryl 25 mg
- Maxeran 10 mg

- Second line

- ECG for QT
- Dexamethasone 10 mg IV
- Stemetil 10 mg IV
- DHE
  - 0.5 mg in 50 mL D5W x 10 min
    - If no rise SBP >20 mmHg x 15 min
  - 0.5 mg in 50 mL D5W x 10 min

- Third Line

- Repeat Toradol
  - Timing
- ECG for QT
- Haldol
  - 5 mg in 500 cc NS
    - Over 1 hr

Dexamethasone can be given as first line

Lorazepam 1 mg IV can be added to second or third line

DHE can be added to first line

Let's discuss your cases



# Thank you for your attention

Questions?

Concerns?

Comments?

Discussion?

[laine.green@nshealth.ca](mailto:laine.green@nshealth.ca)