

MIGRAINE

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| Overview | Classically unilateral, pulsating, with gradual onset, lasting 4-72 hours, associated with nausea, vomiting, photophobia, and phonophobia. May be preceded by a prodromal aura with sensory, motor, or language symptoms. |
| ABORTIVE | |
| Lifestyle/Conservative | Nonpharmacologic management includes patient education, bed rest in a dark room, removal of known triggers, cold pack, constant temporal artery pressure, hyperbaric oxygen |
| Pharmacotherapy (mild to moderate) | Acetaminophen 1000 mg (High evidence) |
| | NSAIDs, i.e. ibuprofen and naproxen (AAN Grade A, High evidence) |
| | Aspirin 900 mg plus metoclopramide 10 mg (Mod evidence) |
| | Excedrin Migraine, which contains acetaminophen, aspirin, and caffeine (AAN Grade A, Mod evidence) |
| | Midrin, which contains acetaminophen, isometheptene, dichloralphenazone (AAN Grade B) |
| | Prochlorperazine (Compazine) IV, IM, or rectally (AAN Grade B, Mod evidence) |
| | Metoclopramide (Reglan) (AAN Grade B, Mod evidence) // <i>Less effective than other antiemetics</i> |
| Pharmacotherapy (moderate to severe) | Triptans available oral, intranasal and subcutaneous (AAN Grade A, Mod evidence) |
| | Dihydroergotamine (DHE) available subcutaneous, IV, IM, nasal (intranasal - AAN Grade A) |
| | Sumatriptan subcutaneous or intranasal provides faster relief but associated with more recurrent headaches compared to dihydroergotamine (Mod evidence) |
| | Intranasal lidocaine (Mod evidence) |
| | Butorphanol nasal spray, droperidol and haloperidol effective (Mod evidence) // <i>Limited due to side effects</i> |
| | Meperidine or other opioids (Mod evidence) - <i>Not recommended; similar or better relief obtained with NSAIDs, dihydroergotamine, metoclopramide</i> |
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| PROPHYLACTIC | |
| Lifestyle/Conservative | Identify and avoid food triggers, improve sleep hygiene (Low evidence) Aerobic exercise, yoga may help (Mod evidence) |
| Alternative Medicine | Acupuncture effective, but no better than sham, massage therapy (Mod evidence) |
| Psychological | Mind-body therapies including CBT, biofeedback, guided imagery, "headache school" (Mod evidence) |
| Supplements | Butterbur extract (75 mg BID) (AAN Level A, Mod evidence) |
| | Others including riboflavin, magnesium, CoQ10, feverfew |
| Pharmacological | Beta blockers, i.e. propranolol 80-160 mg/day or metoprolol 100-200 mg/day (AAN Level A, Mod evidence) |
| | TCA, i.e. amitriptyline 10-100 mg/day (AAN Level B, Mod evidence) |
| | Topiramate, i.e. topiramate 50 mg BID (AAN Level A, Mod evidence) |
| | Botulinum toxin |
| | Other therapies include antiepileptics (divalproex, gabapentin), antidepressants (venlafaxine, pizotifen), anti-hypertensives (nadolol, lisinopril, candesartan, and flunarazine) |
| | Daily opioid maintenance - <i>Not recommended due to possible adverse events including daily rebound between doses</i> |
| KEY | |
| | Benefits clearly outweigh the harms with sufficient evidence, or possibility of benefit with minimal risk |
| | Benefits do not clearly outweigh the harms, or conflicting or limited evidence of efficacy |
| | Benefits do not outweigh the harms, evidence suggests poorer outcomes |

Information was gathered from Dynamed accessed via Tufts
AAN = American Academy of Neurology