Diagnosis and Treatment of Headache

Migraine Treatment Algorithm

Patient meets criteria for migraine

Is patient experiencing a typical headache?

Categorize according to peak severity based on functional impairment, duration of symptoms, and time to peak impairment

Mild

Moderate

Severe

Mild treatment:
- APAP / ASA / Caffeine
- ASA
- Lidocaine nasal
- Midrin®
- NSAIDs
- 5 HT agonists (triptans)

Moderate treatment:
- Ergotamine tartrate
- Lidocaine nasal
- Midrin® and others
- NSAIDs
- 5 HT agonists (triptans)

Severe treatment:
- Prochlorperazine
- Chlorpromazine
- DHE
- Ketorolac IM
- Magnesium Sulfate IV
- 5 HT agonists (triptans)

Adjunctive therapy
- Dexamethasone

Successful?

Consultation with headache specialist

Specialty consultation indicated?

Chlorpromazine
Valproate sodium IV
Magnesium Sulfate IV or Prochlorperazine

Refer to to the DHE Protocol algorithm

Headache resolved

Is this a hormone-related migraine?

Is patient candidate for prophylactic treatment?

Continue acute treatment

Successful?

Adjunctive therapy 32, 36, 39, 44

- Rest in quiet, dark room
- IV rehydration
- Antiemetics **
  - Hydroxyzine
  - Metoclopramide
  - Promethazine
  - Caffeine

Successful?

Consultation with Migraine algorithm

Successful?

Consultation with Menstrual-Associated Migraine algorithm

Specialty consultation indicated?

Chlorpromazine
Valproate sodium IV
Magnesium Sulfate IV or Prochlorperazine

Refer to the DHE Protocol algorithm

To hormone-related migraine?

Is patient candidate for prophylactic treatment?

Refer to the Migraine Prophylactic Treatment algorithm

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