



Migraine & Primary Care

Physiology, Diagnosis, Pitfalls, & Treatment

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DISCLOSURE

Christopher Rhyne, MD.

Has received honoraria for serving on the speakers' bureau for:

- Abbvie
- Lilly
- Amgen
- Theranica
- Lundbeck
- Teva
- Biohaven

All of the relevant financial relationships listed have been mitigated.

Migraine Headache for Primary Care Education Goals:



Better understand The Epidemiology of Migraine Headache and this relationship to Primary Care.



Better understand strategies for making an appropriate Diagnosis of Migraine Headache.



Better understand Treatment and barriers to treatment of Migraine Headache in Primary Care.

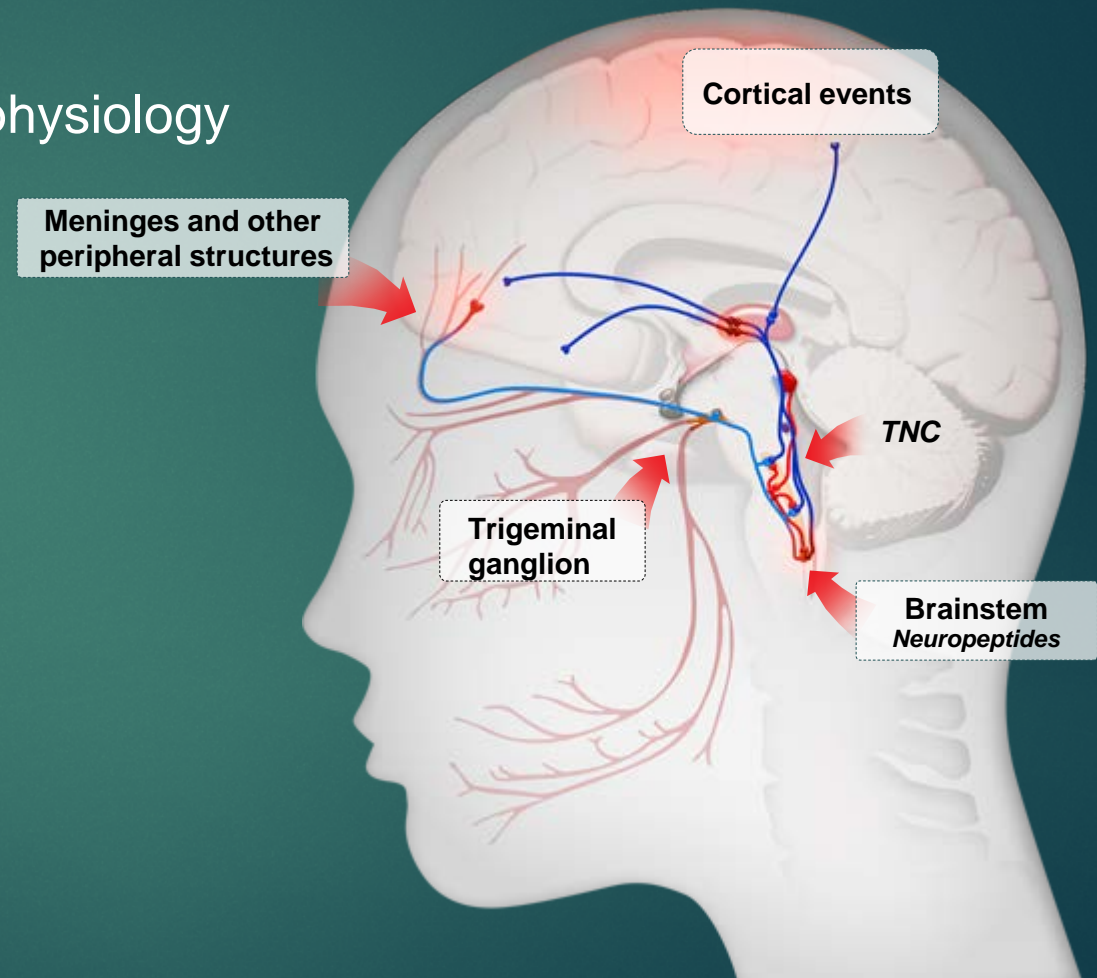
Migraine Diagnosis

- ▶*Headaches last 4-72 hrs and have no other cause.
- ▶Adapted from Headache Classification Committee of the IHS. Cephalalgia. 2018;38(1):1-211.

Headache Description (<i>Any 2</i>)	Associated Symptoms (<i>Any 1</i>)
Unilateral	Nausea or vomiting
Throbbing	Photophobia and photophobia
Worse with exertion	
Moderate to severe intensity	

What is Migraine

- A chronic disorder with episodic attacks
- Integrated mechanisms and complex pathophysiology
- During attacks
 - Headache
 - Several associated symptoms
 - Functional disability
- Between attacks
 - Enduring predisposition to future attacks
 - Anticipatory anxiety
 - Changes in brain function, eg
 - Lack of habituation
 - Reduced nociceptive threshold

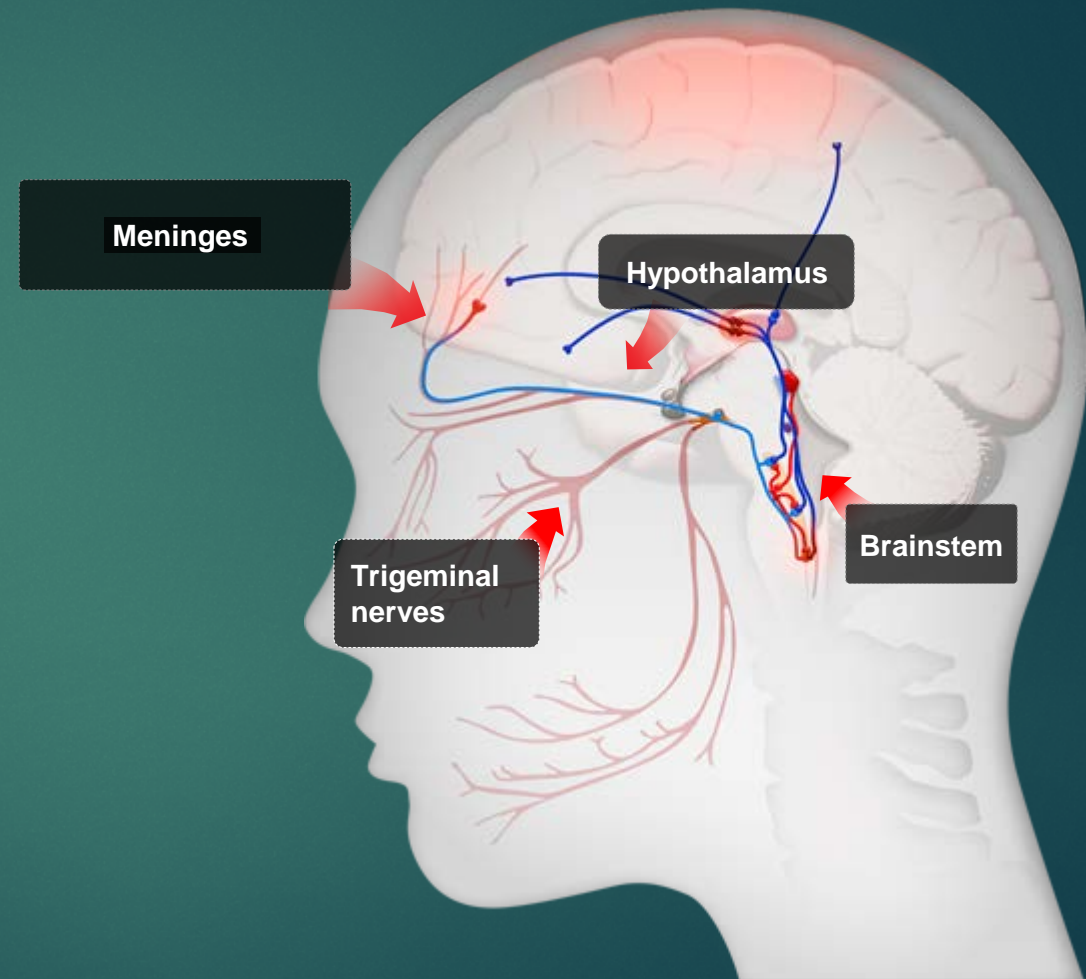


TNC = trigeminal nucleus caudalis.

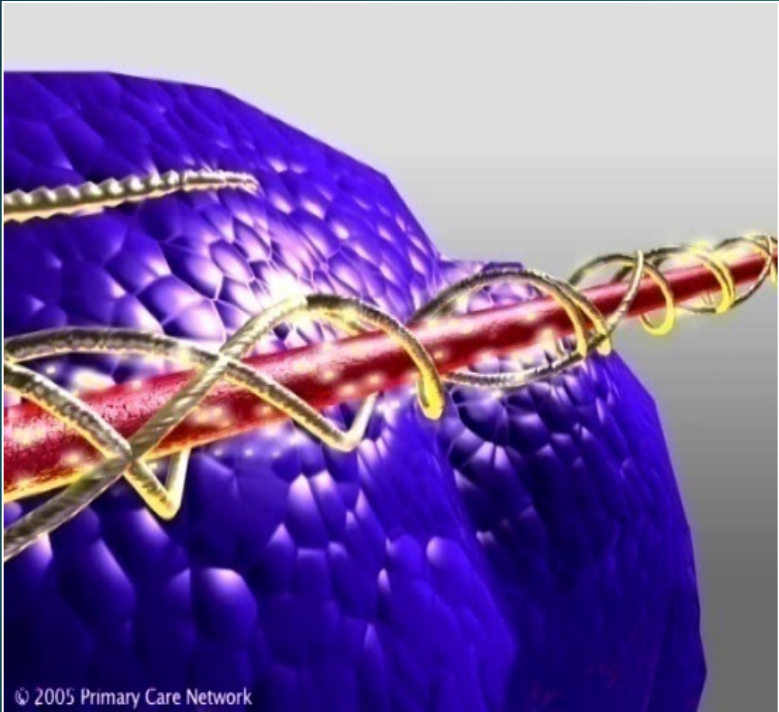
Bigal ME, et al. *Neurology*. 2008;71:848-855. Brandes JL. *Headache*. 2008;48:430-441. Coppola G, et al. *Cephalalgia*. 2007;27:1429-1439. Goadsby PJ, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2002;346:257-270. Haut SR, et al. *Lancet Neurol*. 2006;5:148-157. Lovati C, et al. *Headache*. 2008;48:272-277. Pietrobon D. *Neuroscientist*. 2005;11:373-386.

Head Pain Anatomy

- Meninges—Pain-sensitive lining of the brain
- Trigeminal nerves—Pain nerves that go to the meninges, face, and head
- Brainstem—Receives the trigeminal nerves and sends them to the deep brain
- Hypothalamus—Area of the brain that regulates response to stress, hunger, mood, and sleep

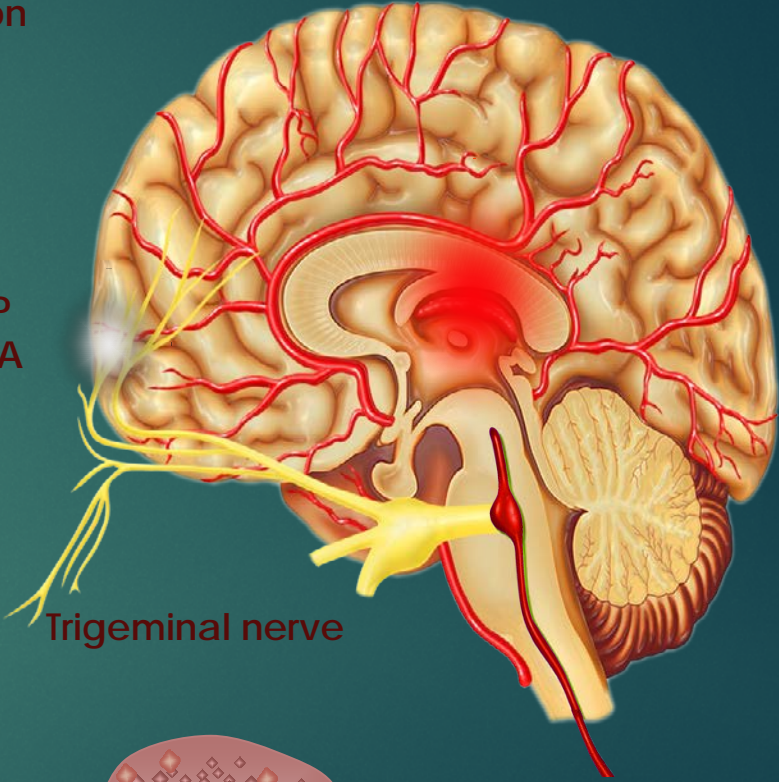


Trigeminovascular Activation in Migraine

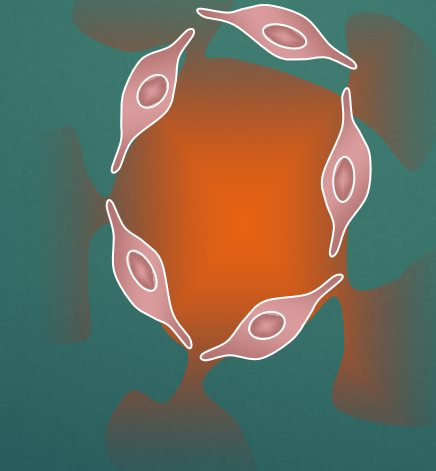


Dilation

CGRP
Substance P
Neurokinin A

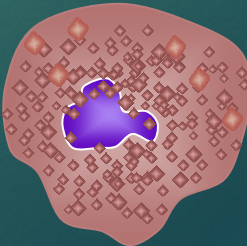


Trigeminal nerve



Blood vessel leakage

Mast cell



Release of histamine granules

CGRP Receptor: Location and Function

Vascular smooth muscle cells

- ▶ Relaxation of vessels; increase blood flow

Mast cells

- ▶ Degranulation—release of inflammatory molecules

Second-order neurons

- ▶ Activation—pain transmission

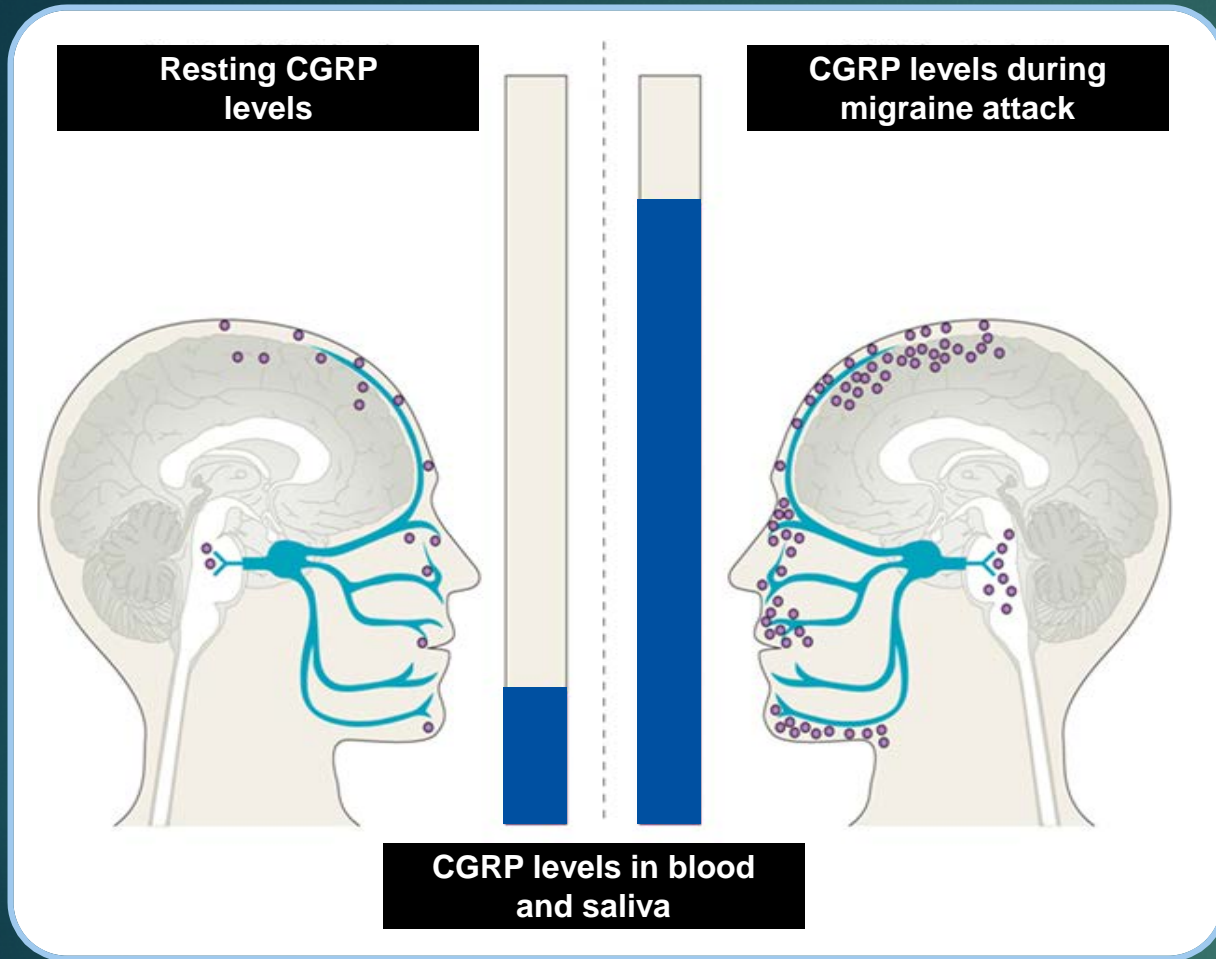
Neuronal cell bodies and glia within trigeminal ganglion

- ▶ Autoregulation—promote further CGRP release
- ▶ Excitation of satellite glial cells—release of inflammatory molecules (NO, cytokines)

NO = nitric oxide.

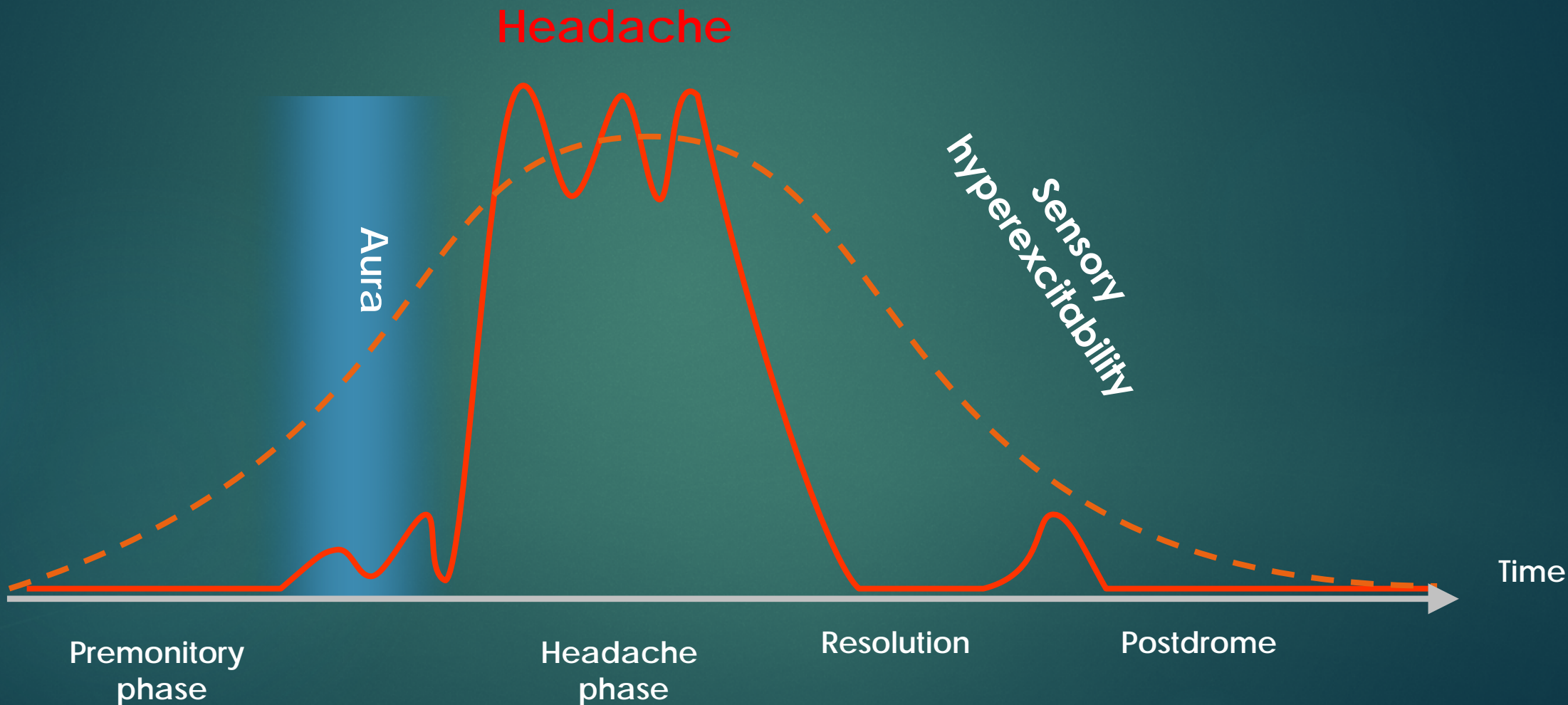
Durham PL. *N Engl J Med.* 2004;350(11):1073-1075.

CGRP and Migraine Connection



- Serum CGRP levels are elevated in migraine
- CGRP infusion evokes migraine

The Natural Course of a Typical Migraine Attack



Migraine Frequency: A Continuum

1-6 days/month

Episodic
Low frequency



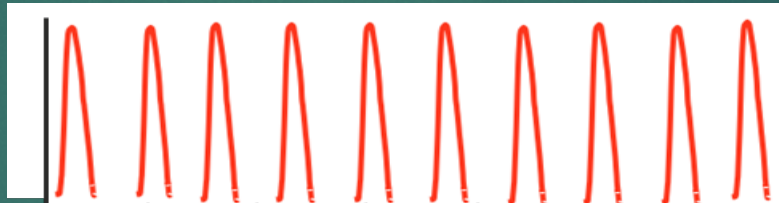
Intermittent headaches,
lots of headache-free days

Low frequency

80%

7-14 days/month

Episodic
High frequency



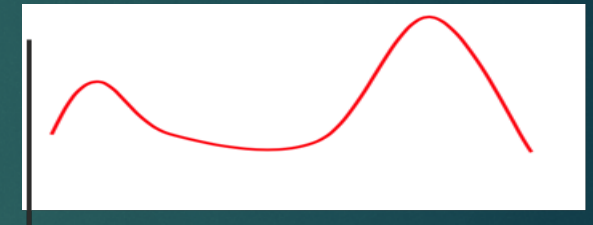
Frequent headaches, still
headache-free days

High frequency

14.5%

15-30 days/month

Chronic migraine
High disability



Rare headache-free days, may
be daily with exacerbations

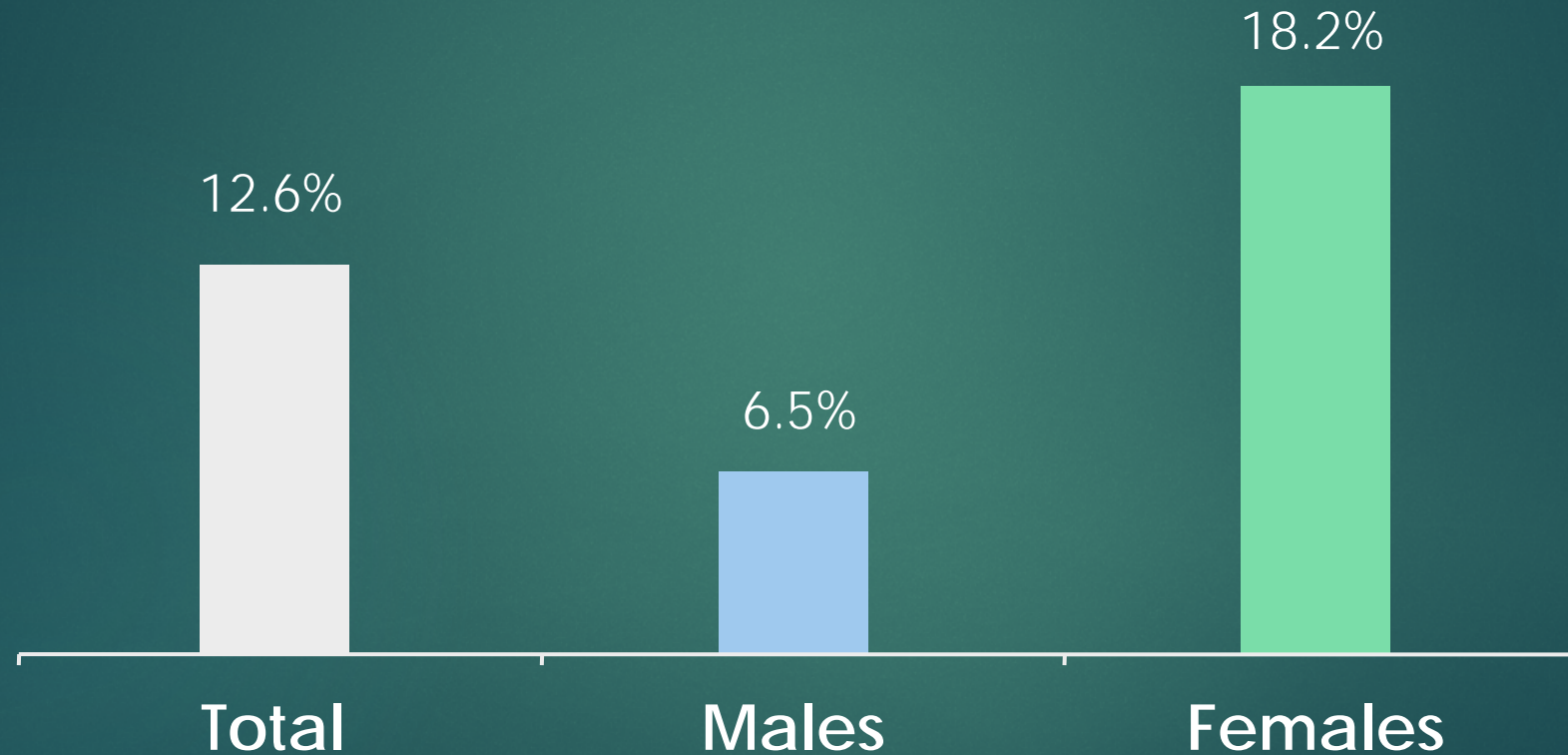
Chronic

5.5%

Over a lifetime, a person can experience attacks that vary in frequency and severity.

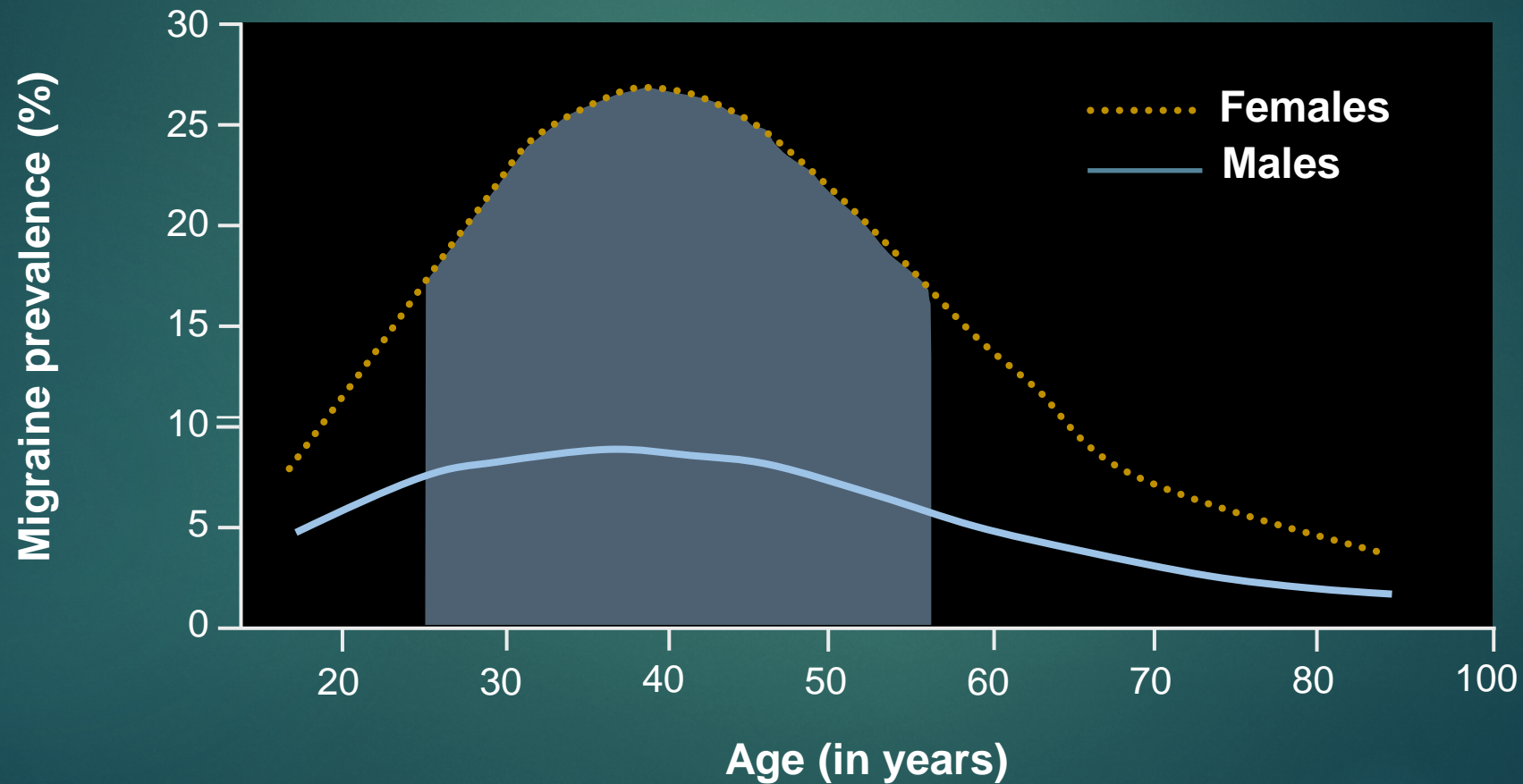
Migraine Prevalence in the US

- ▶ 39 million Americans Suffer with Migraine Headache Disease.

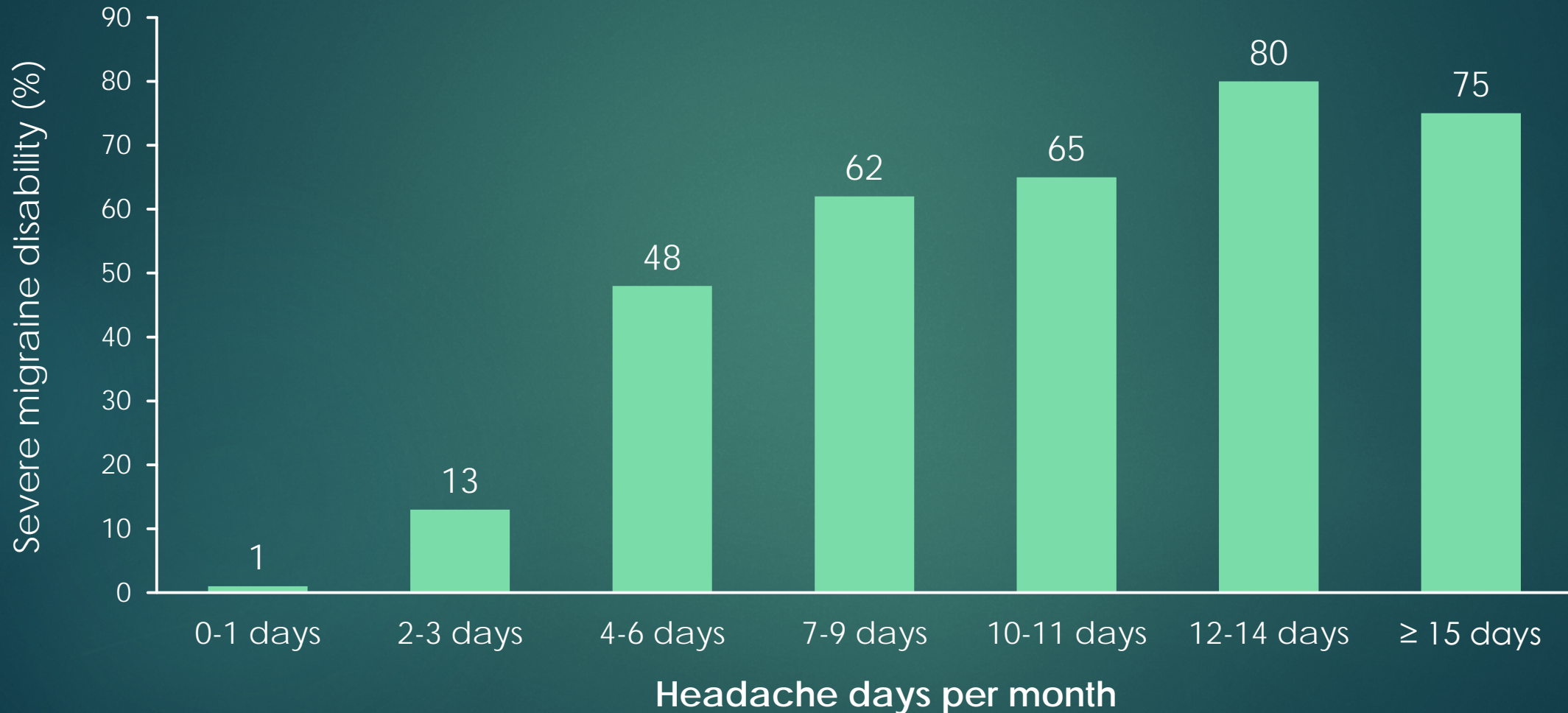


Prevalence by Age

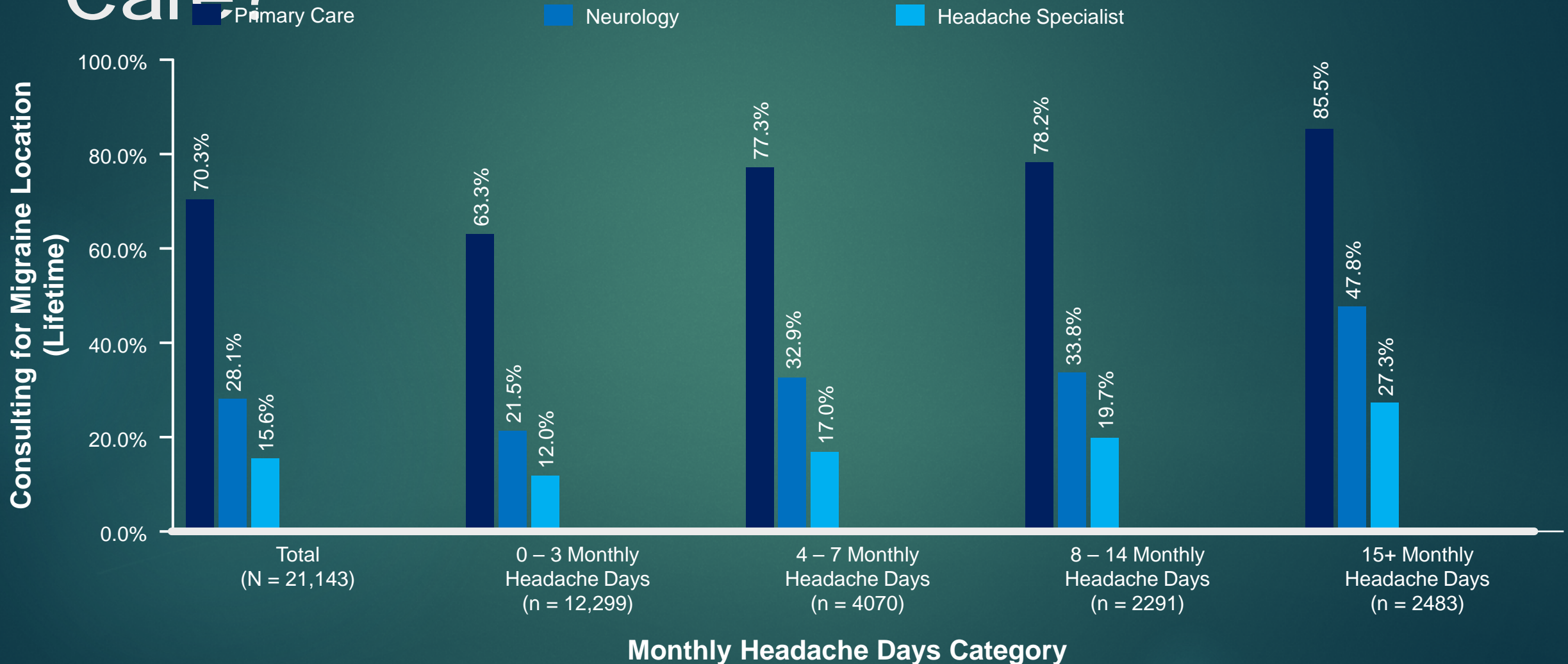
- ▶ Greatest Prevalence between 25-55 years of age.



Disability Based on Migraine Headache Days:



Where do Headache Patients Seek Care?

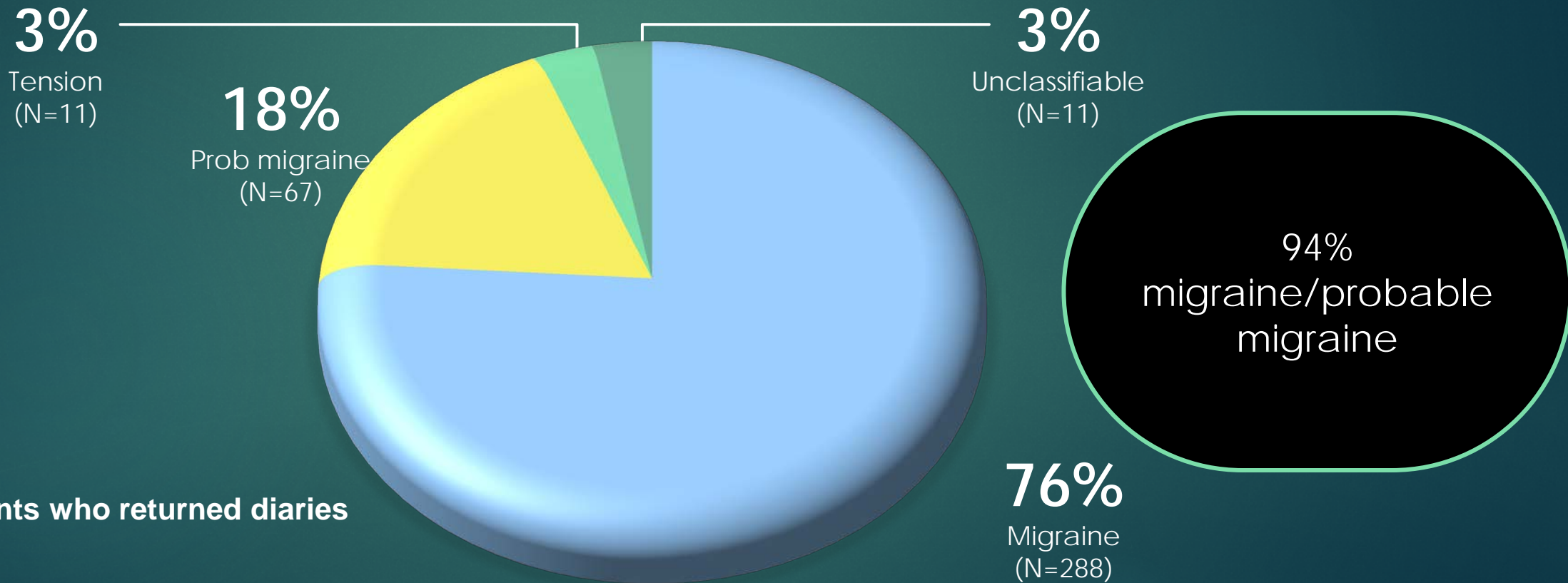


Prevalence in Primary Care Waiting Rooms



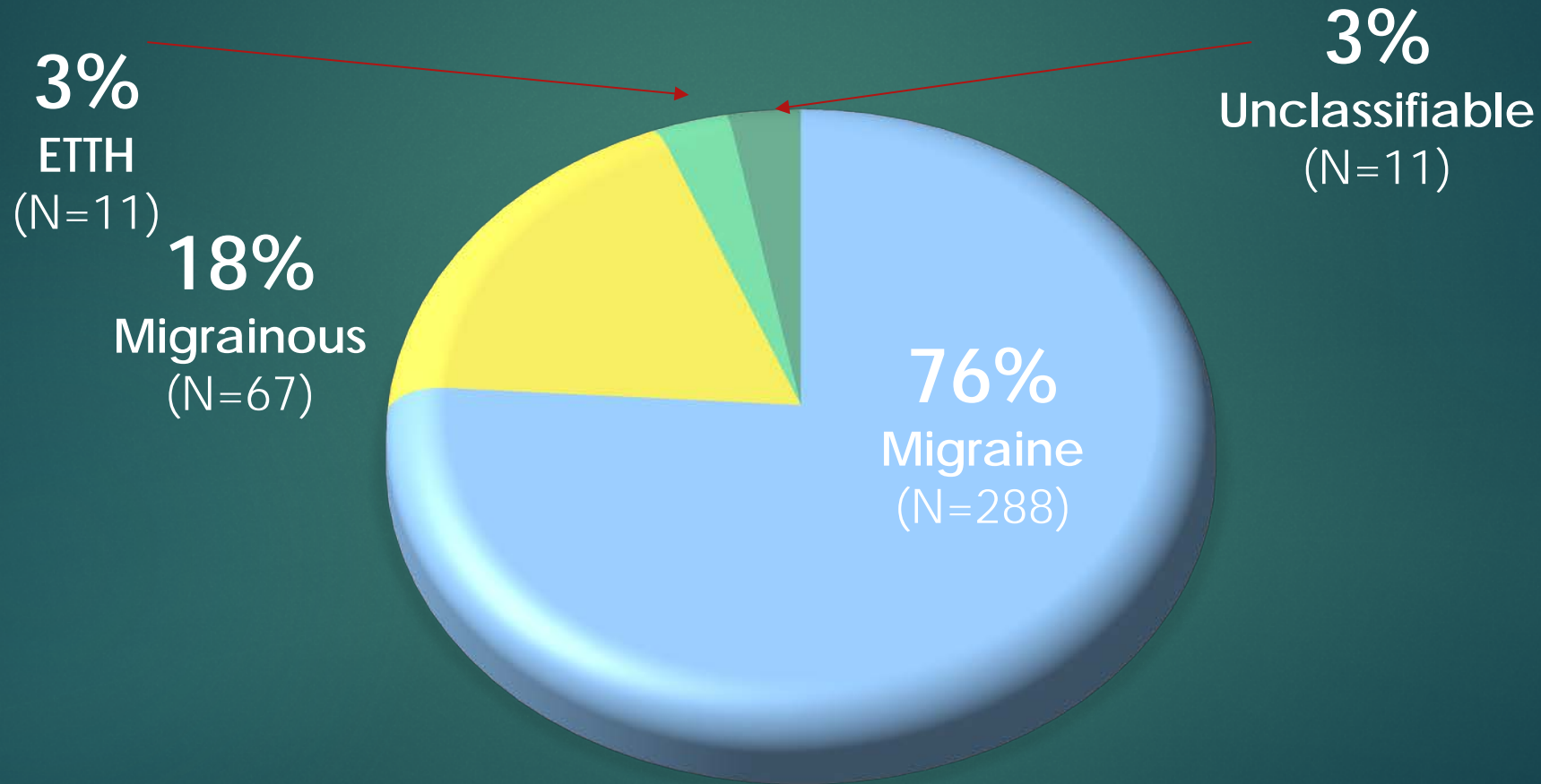
Prevalence of migraine is 33% in primary care waiting rooms

Global Prevalence of Episodic Headache Presenting to PCP Based Upon Expert Panel Diary Review

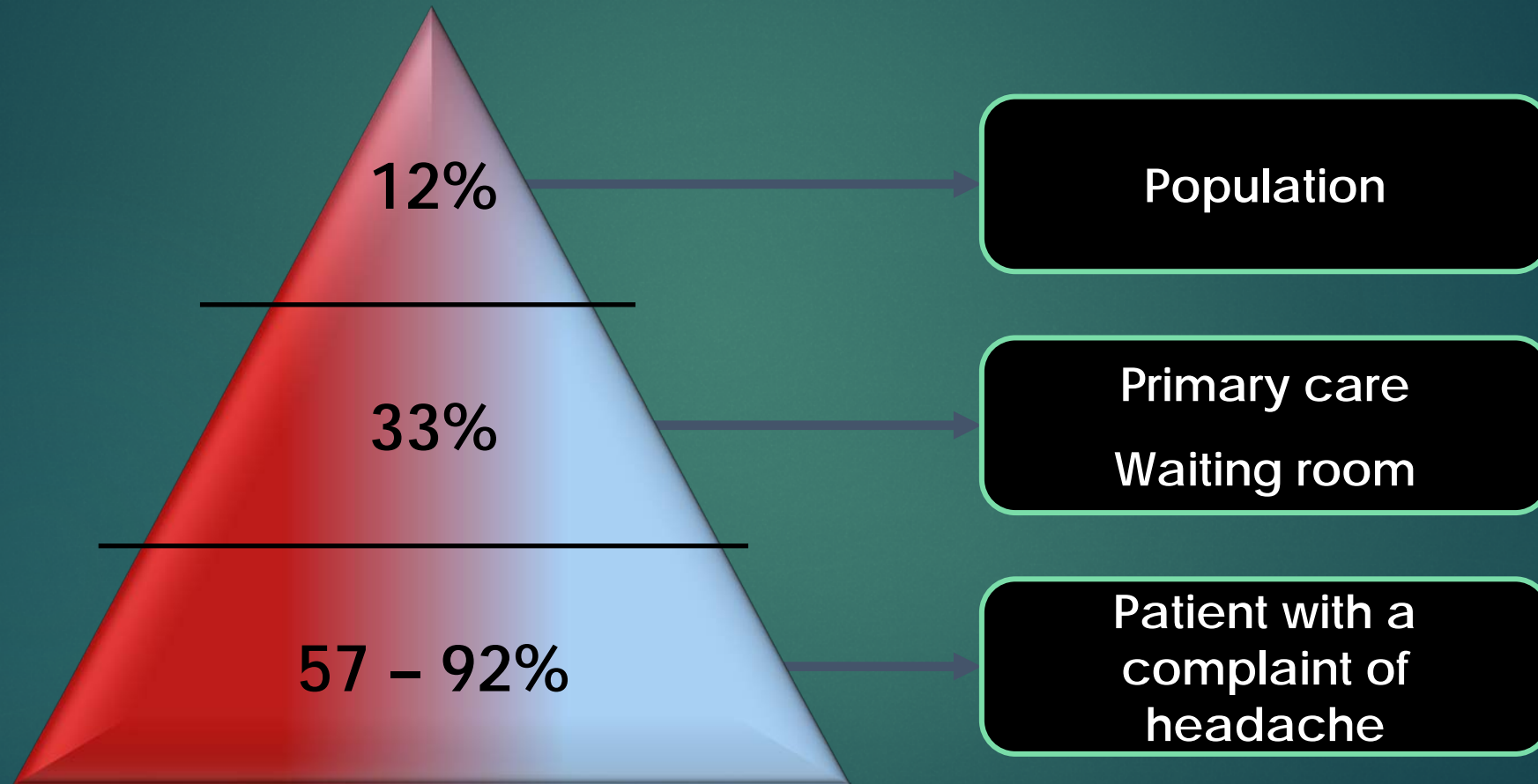


n=377 patients who returned diaries

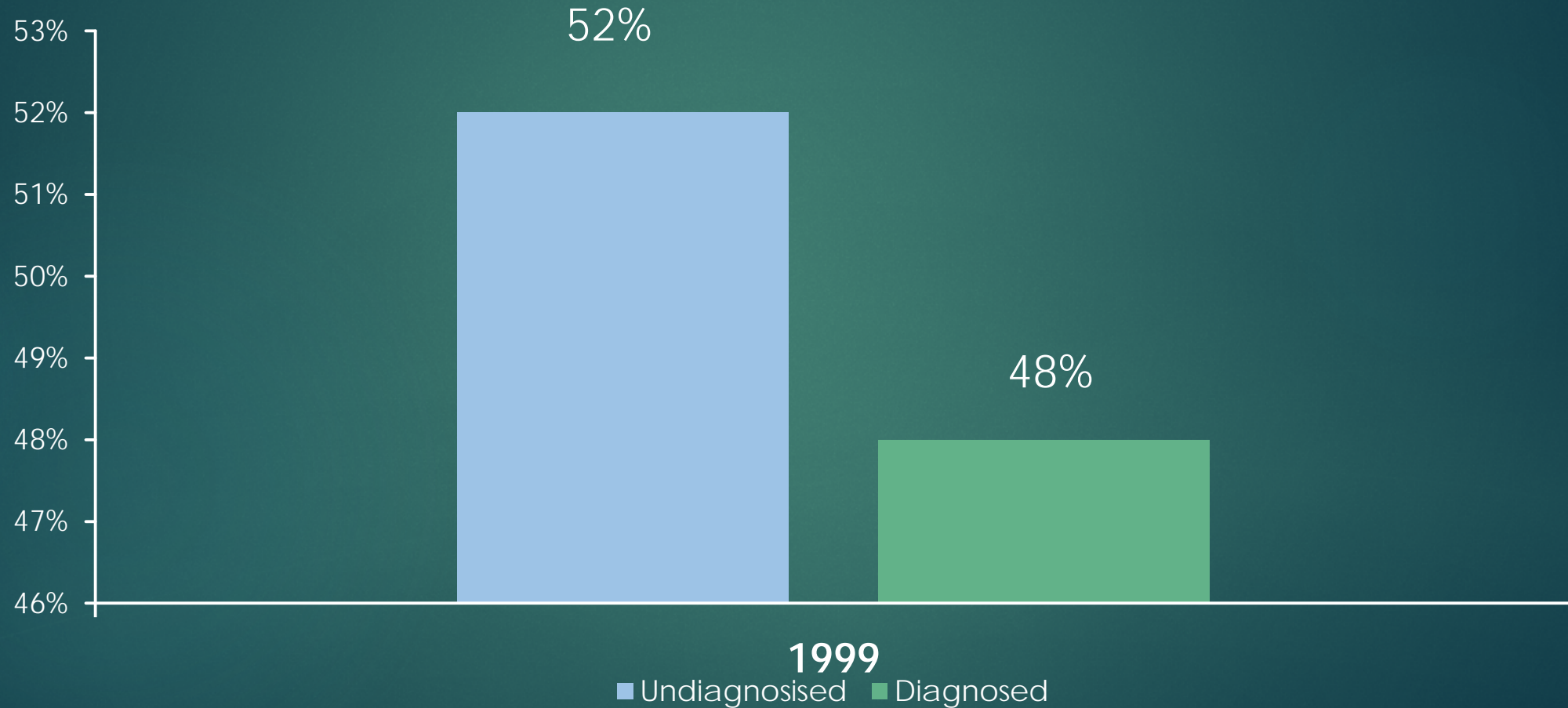
Most Likely Diagnosis in Patients with Complaint of Headache!



The Prevalence of Migraine in Primary Care



Migraine Is Underdiagnosed



Why do we miss the diagnosis?



Time



Multiple Complaints at any
one visit



Comorbid issues common
with migraine

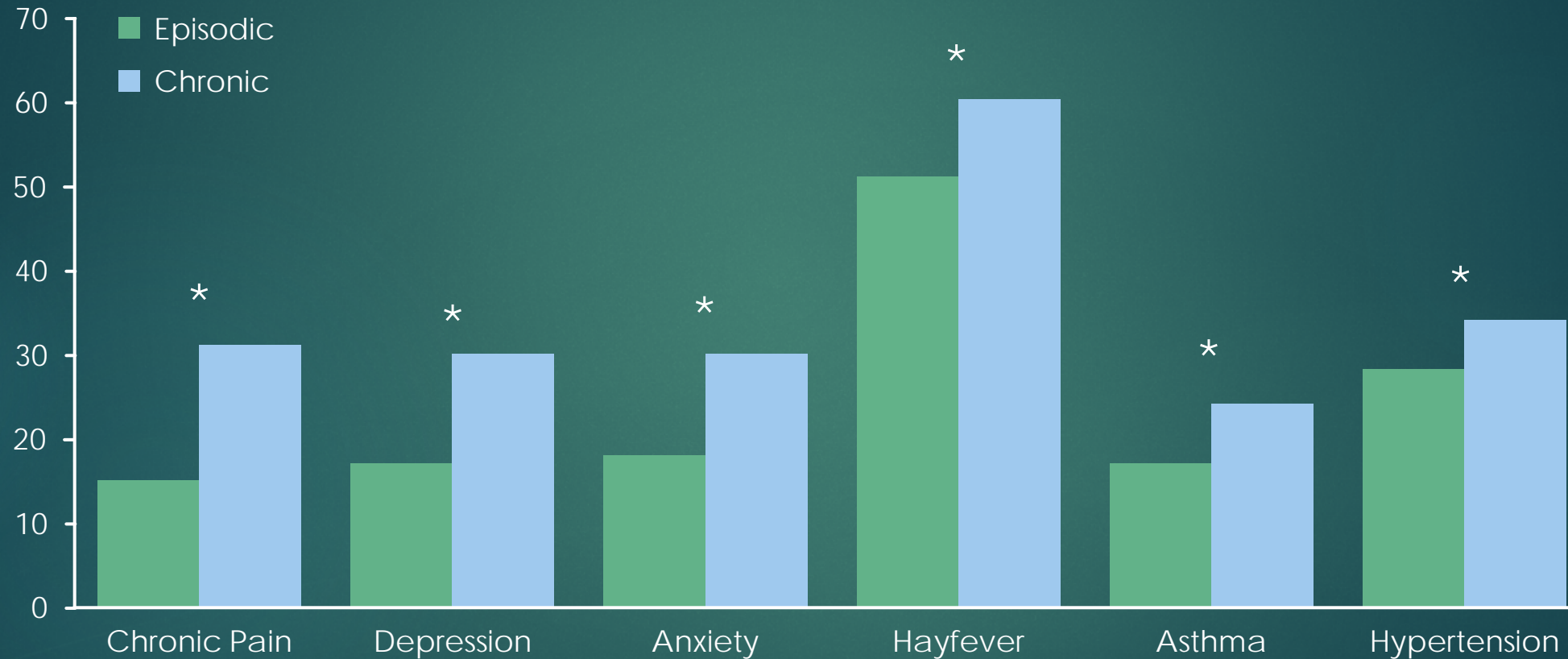


Lack of Experience in
Identifying Migraine vs other
Primary headache types



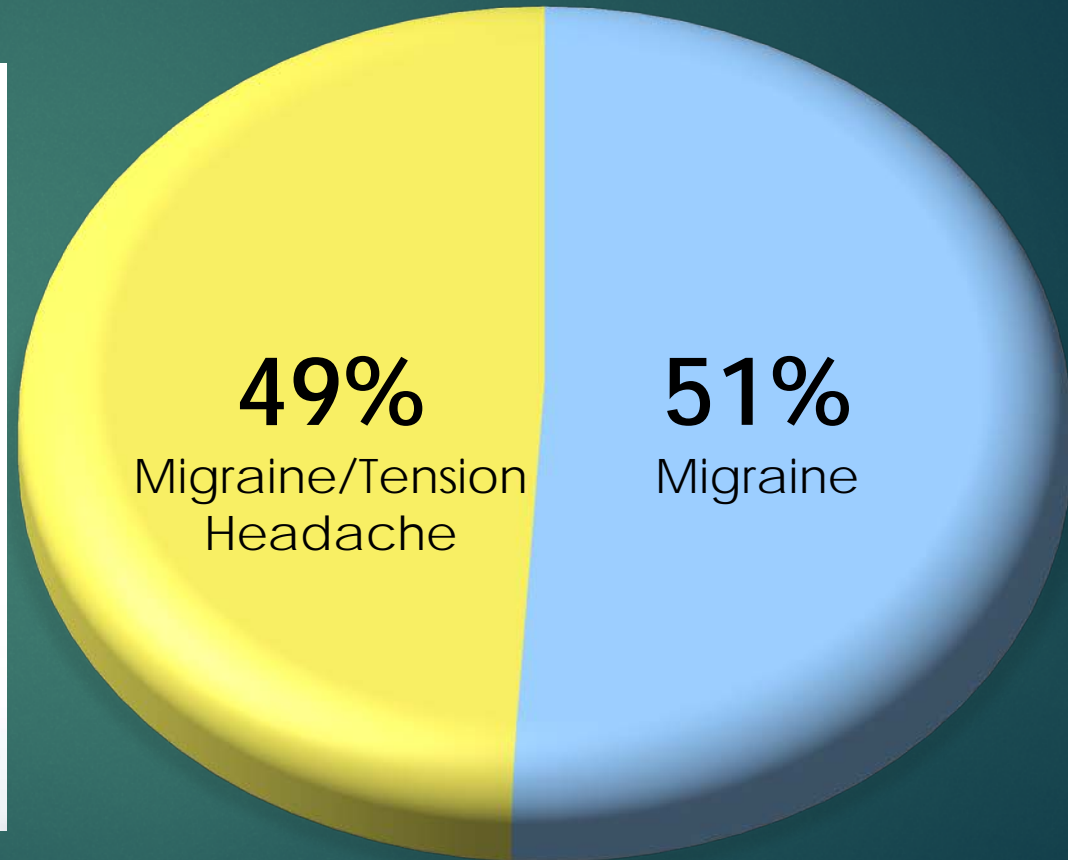
Lack of experience with
appropriate treatment

Comorbid Medical and Psychiatric Disorders Common!!



*P<0.05

One Head with Different Headaches



Primary vs Secondary Headache Disorders

Primary

- Migraine
- Tension-type headache
- Cluster headache
- Other primary headache disorders

Secondary

Headaches that arise as a result of another disorder

Approaching Headaches With Directed Exams



DIRECTED INTERVIEW



DIRECTED EXAM



MAKE THE CALL



DECIDE ON ADDITIONAL
WORK UP AND
TREATMENT

The Interview Questions

Location

Laterality

Quality (throbbing)

Severity

Frequency
(days/week or
days/month)

Associated
symptoms

- Nausea, vomiting,
photo/phonophobia

Neurological
symptoms

- Visual aura symptoms,
hemiparesis, hemisensory
loss, diplopia, or vertigo

Additional Questions

- ▶ Worse on standing
Suspicious for “low pressure headaches” secondary to a leak of spinal fluid
- ▶ Worse with coughing, bearing down, or sneezing (Valsalva maneuvers) or worse during the morning
Suspicious for “high pressure headaches”



Simple Neuro Exam

- ▶ Vitals
- ▶ Fundoscopic exam
- ▶ Cranial nerve assessment
- ▶ Muscular strength testing
- ▶ Reflexes
- ▶ Cerebellar testing

This exam is typically normal !!

Worrisome Headache Red Flags (SNOOP4)

Sign or symptom

S Systemic symptoms

N Neurological signs or symptoms

O Onset

O Older

P4 Progression, papilledema, position, precipitated by Valsalva

Causes of Secondary Headache

Etiologies

Examples

Neoplastic

Primary or metastatic brain neoplasms

Infectious

Meningitis, acute sinusitis, brain abscess

Vascular

Subarachnoid hemorrhage, carotid or vertebral dissection, aneurysm, CVA, temporal arteritis

Low- or high-pressure syndromes

Intracranial hypotension or hypertension

Drug-induced

Medication overuse headaches

Idiopathic

Vasculitis, CNS lupus, CNS sarcoidosis

Secondary Headache in Primary Care

	New PCP diagnosis Primary headache disorder (n=21,758 [25%])	New PCP diagnosis Undifferentiated headache disorder (n=63,921 [74%])
Brain tumor	0.045%	0.15%
SAH	0.02%	0.14%
Temporal arteritis	0.18%	0.66%
Stroke	0.45%	1.06%
TIA	0.25%	0.43%
Benign space-occupying lesions	0.009%	0.05%
Total	0.95%	2.49%

SAH = subarachnoid hemorrhage; TIA = transient ischemic attack.
Kernick D. *Cephalgia*. 2008;28(11):1188-1195.



Primary Headaches

Diagnosis of Migraine, Tension Headache,
and Cluster Headache

Migraine Diagnosis – Let's look at it one more time

Headache Description (<i>Any 2</i>)	Associated Symptoms (<i>Any 1</i>)
Unilateral	Nausea or vomiting
Throbbing	Photophobia and photophobia
Worse with exertion	
Moderate to severe intensity	

*Headaches last 4-72 hrs and have no other cause.

Adapted from Headache Classification Committee of the IHS. *Cephalalgia*. 2018;38(1):1-211.

Chronic Migraine

Meet diagnostic criteria for migraine with or without aura

≥ 15 days per month of headache

≥ 8 days per month have migraine features

Unilateral, moderate/severe,
throbbing, worse with exertion

Nausea, vomiting,
photo/phonophobia

w/wo Aura symptoms

Aura

Neurological Event that Usually Precedes the Headache

15%-30% experience aura

Visual aura

Visual disturbance



Sensory aura

Numbness of the face
Tingling down arm




Hemiplegic aura


One side of the body




Migraine is More than Just a Headache



Moderate to severe headache



Sensitivity to light, noise, and odors



Nausea and or vomiting



Concentration and/or memory troubles

ID Migraine™ Validated Screener

Sensitivity of 0.81
and a specificity of
0.75

During the last 3 months, did you have the following with your headaches

1. You felt nauseated or sick to your stomach

Yes ____

No ____

2. Light bothered you (a lot more than when you don't have headaches)

Yes ____

No ____

3. Your headaches limited your ability to work, study, or do what you needed to do?

Yes ____

No ____

2/3 "Yes" = Positive Screen

Tension vs. Migraine Type Headache

Two of the following

- Mild to moderate intensity
- Bilateral
- Pressure, band-like and non-pulsating
- Not aggravated by exertion
 - often improved

Both of the following

- No nausea or vomiting
- No phonophobia or photophobia (one allowed)

Cluster Headache

- Severe headaches with psychomotor agitation
- Unilateral
- Duration: 15 minutes to 3 hours
- Cranial autonomic symptoms
 - Ipsilateral rhinorrhea, lacrimation, nasal congestion, or eyelid edema
 - Miosis or ptosis
- Can occur up to 8X per day



Acute Treatment Options For Migraine

How Do We Decide What to Use?



What do we need to understand about the evidence?



What do we need to know about patient migraine characteristics?



What are potential barriers for prescribing?

Acute Migraine Treatment Options

Traditional therapies

- ▶ Migraine-specific
 - ▶ Triptans
 - ▶ Ergots/DHE
- ▶ Non-specific
 - ▶ Acetaminophen
 - ▶ NSAIDS
 - ▶ Anti-dopamine agents (metoclopramide, prochlorperazine, chlorpromazine)
 - ▶ Butalbital
 - ▶ Combination analgesics

Newer therapies

Gepants

Ditans

Neuromodulation

Acute Migraine Treatment Options

cont...

Previous non-specific acute therapies

- NSAIDs
- Dopamine receptor agonists

Previous specific acute therapies

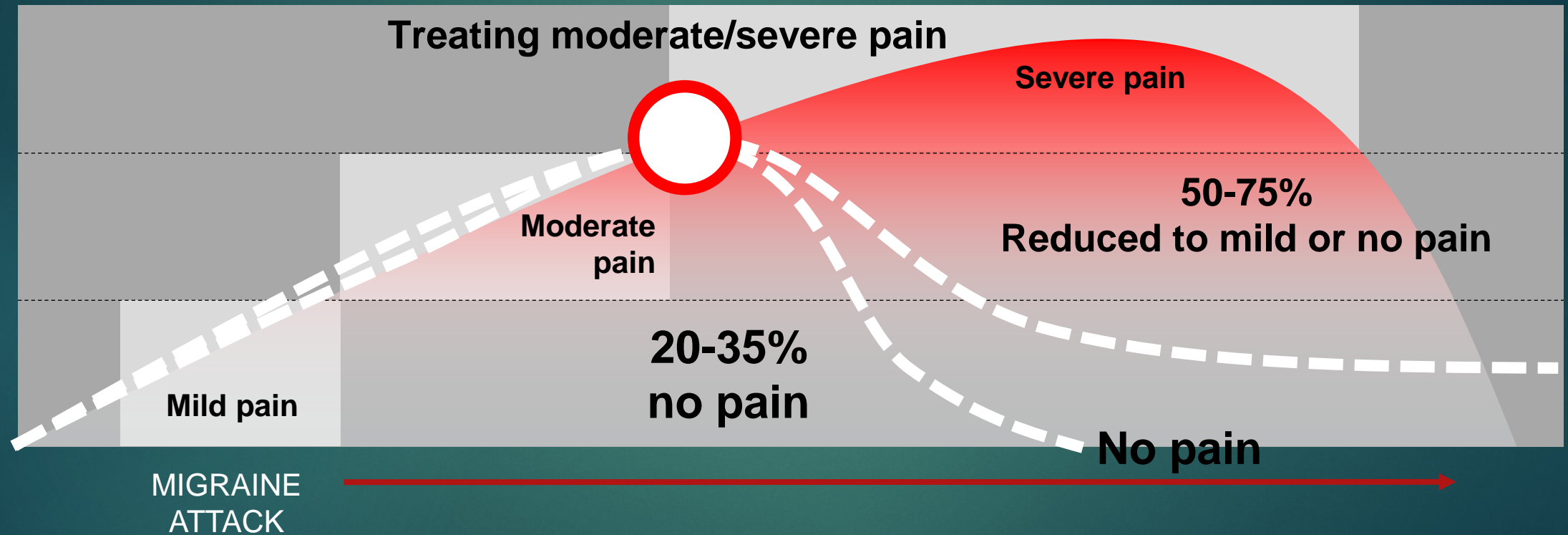
- ▶ Sedatives
- ▶ Opioids



Numerous adverse events

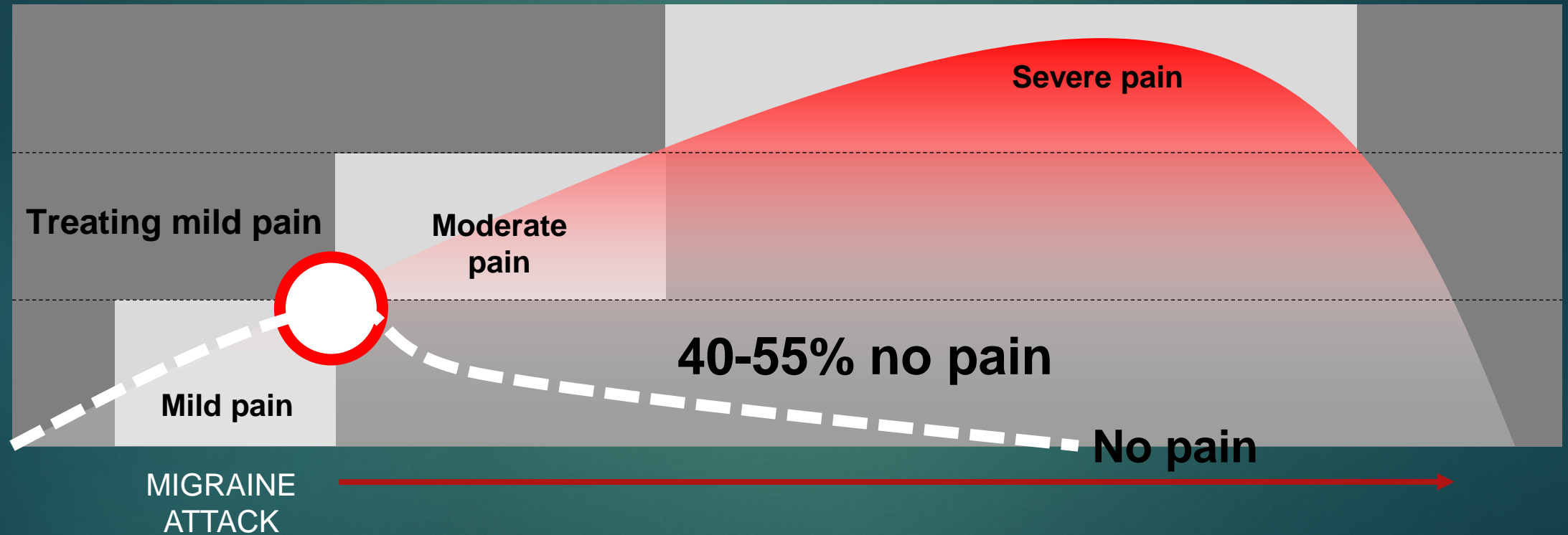
Non-specific therapy led to complications related to the medication

Realistic Expectations of Oral Therapies



Valade D. *Cephalalgia*. 2009;29 (Suppl 3):15-21. Foley KA, et al. *Headache*. 2005;45(5):538-545. Antonaci F, et al. *SpringerPlus*. 2016 ;5:637. Antonaci F, et al. *J Headache Pain*. 2008(4):207-213.

Realistic Expectations of Oral Therapies



Evidence Assessment for Abortive Medications

Level of evidence	Examples
Level A	
Analgesics	Acetaminophen 1000 mg
Ergots	DHE nasal spray 2 mg
NSAIDS	ASA 500 mg, diclofenac 50/100 mg, ibuprofen 200/400 mg, naproxen 500/550 mg, celecoxib oral solution*, diclofenac powder*
Combinations	Acetaminophen/ASA/caffeine 500/500/130 mg, sumatriptan/naproxen 85/500 mg
Gepants*	Rimegepant*, ubrogepant*, zavegepant (pending FDA approval)
Ditans*	Lasmiditan*
Triptans	Almotriptan 12.5 mg, eletriptan 20/40/80 mg, naratriptan 1/2.5 mg, rizatriptan 5/10 mg, sumatriptan 25/50/100 mg tabs, 20 mg NS, 4/6 mg sq, zolmitriptan 2.5/5 mg tabs, 2.5/5 mg NS

* Not reviewed in 2015 review.

ASA = acetylsalicylic acid; NS = nasal spray.

Marmura MJ, et al. *Headache*. 2015;55: 3-20

Potential Side Effects May Guide Choice

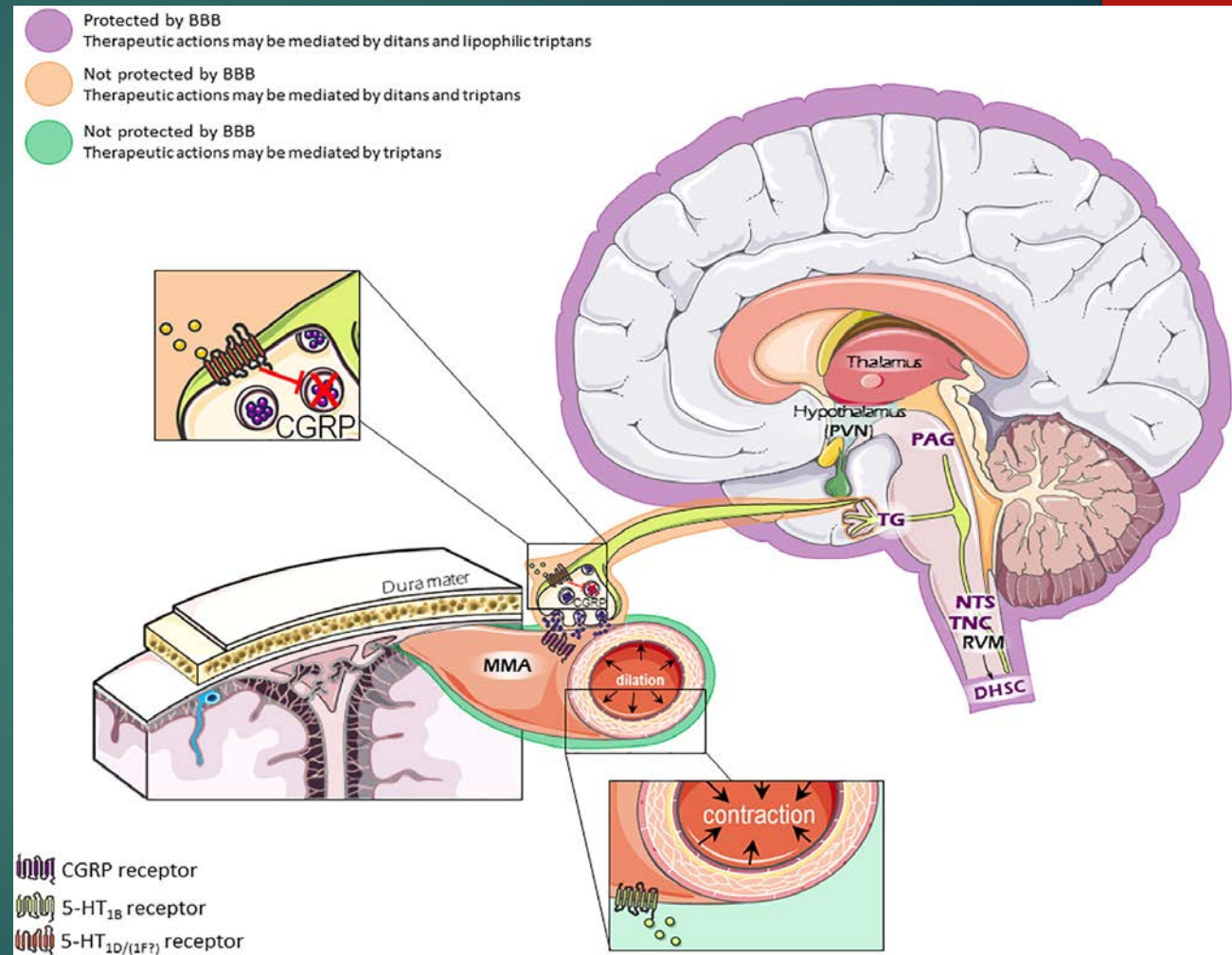
Med class	Side effects	Cautions	Drug interactions
NSAIDS	Gastritis, PUD	CRF, CV disease	MTX, immunosuppressives
Triptan	Triptan side effects	CV disease	SSRIs, SNRIs?
Gepants	Nausea, somnolence	None No CV contraindication	CYP3A4 inhibitors*
Ditans	Dizziness, somnolence, paresthesia	Driving restriction No CV contraindication	
Ergots	Nausea, vomiting	CV disease	CYP3A4 inhibitors*

*Potent CYP3A4 include itraconazole, fluconazole, erythro/clarithromycin, protease inhibitors.
PUD = peptic ulcer disease; CRF = chronic renal failure; CV = cardiovascular; MTX = methotrexate; CYP3A4 = cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4.

Triptan MOA

Standard of care

- ▶ Mechanism of action
 - Serotonin 5-HT_{1B} agonist
 - Serotonin 5-HT_{1D} agonist
- ▶ Clinically effective
- ▶ Peripheral-acting
- ▶ Vasoconstricting
- ▶ Adverse events
 - Chest pain/tightness
 - Neck/throat discomfort



PVN = paraventricular nucleus; PAG = periaqueductal gray; TG = trigeminal ganglion; NTS = nucleus tractus solitarius; TNC = trigeminal nucleus caudalis; RVM = rostral ventromedial medulla; DHSC = dorsal horn of the spinal cord; MMA = middle meningeal artery.

Contraindications to Triptans



▶ History of stroke, aneurysm, or myocardial infarction



▶ Uncontrolled hypertension



▶ History of ischemic bowel disease or severe peripheral vascular disease



▶ Serotonin syndrome?

Overall, triptans are
very safe!

Standard of care
for migraine

Ditan -

▶ 5HT_{1F} receptor agonist

- ▶ Lasmiditan
- ▶ Highly efficacious in clinical trials
- ▶ Adverse events reflect CNS activity
- ▶ Dizziness/driving restriction (Schedule V)
- ▶ No vasoconstriction
- ▶ Mechanism of action
 - ▶ Peripheral reduction of CGRP

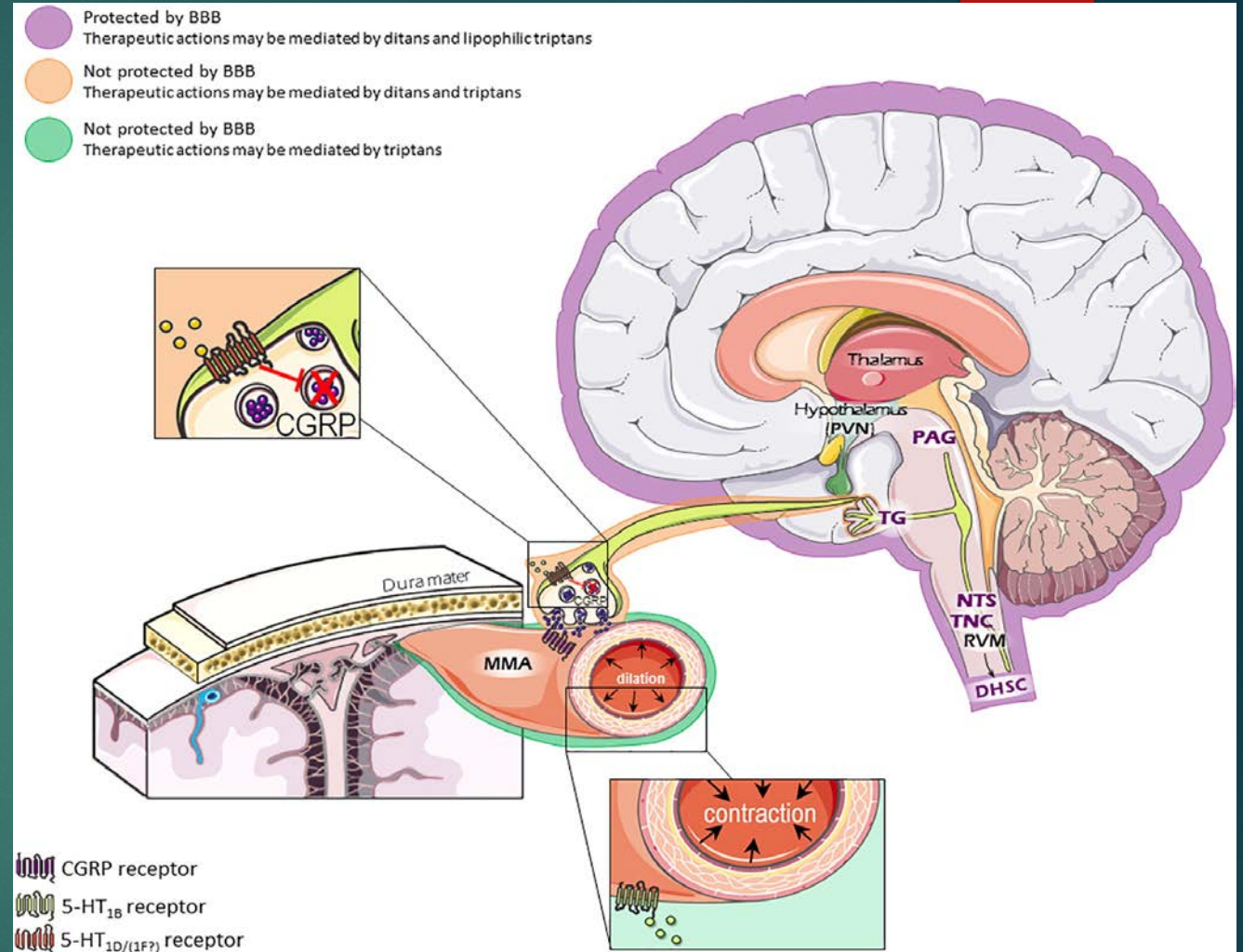
Central 5HT_{1F} receptors
at key areas of migraine

Hypothalamus

Thalamus

Trigeminal nucleus caudalis

Periaqueductal gray



CNS = central nervous system.

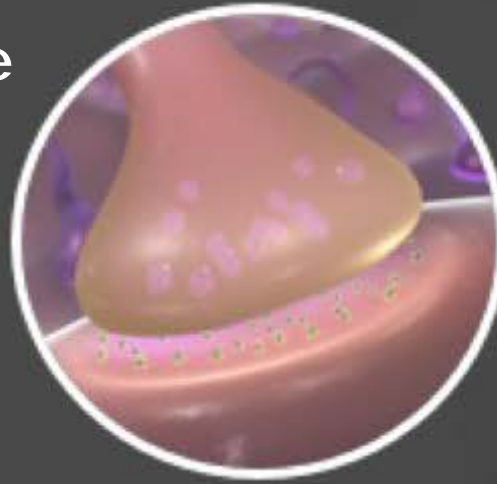
Rubio-Beltrán E, et al. *Pharmacol Ther.* 2018;186:88-97.

CGRP(Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide)



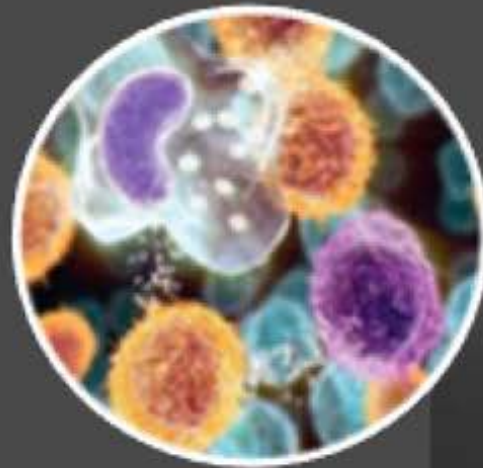
Vasodilation

Neuropeptide
Release



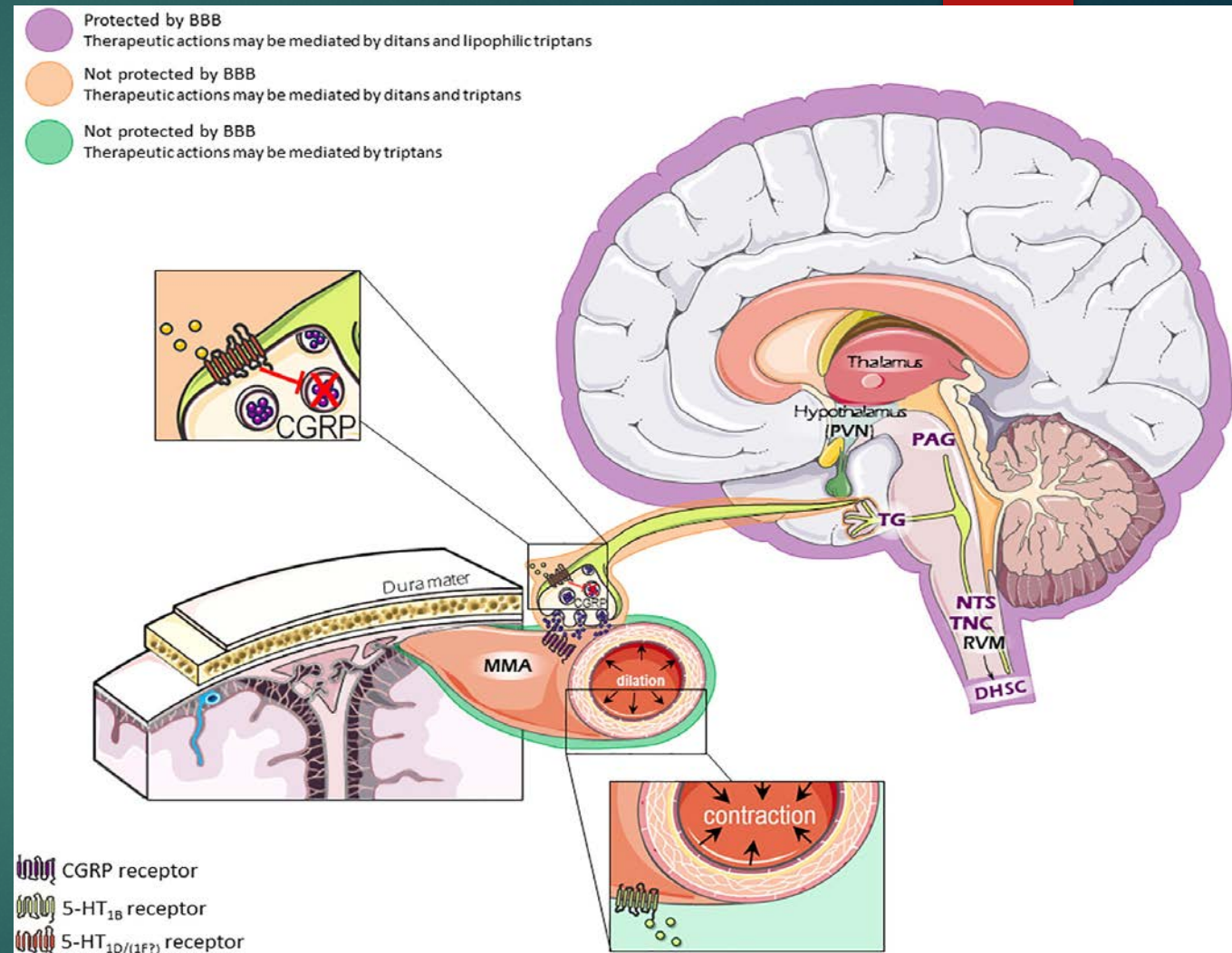
Nociceptor
Sensitization

Inflammation



Gepants -

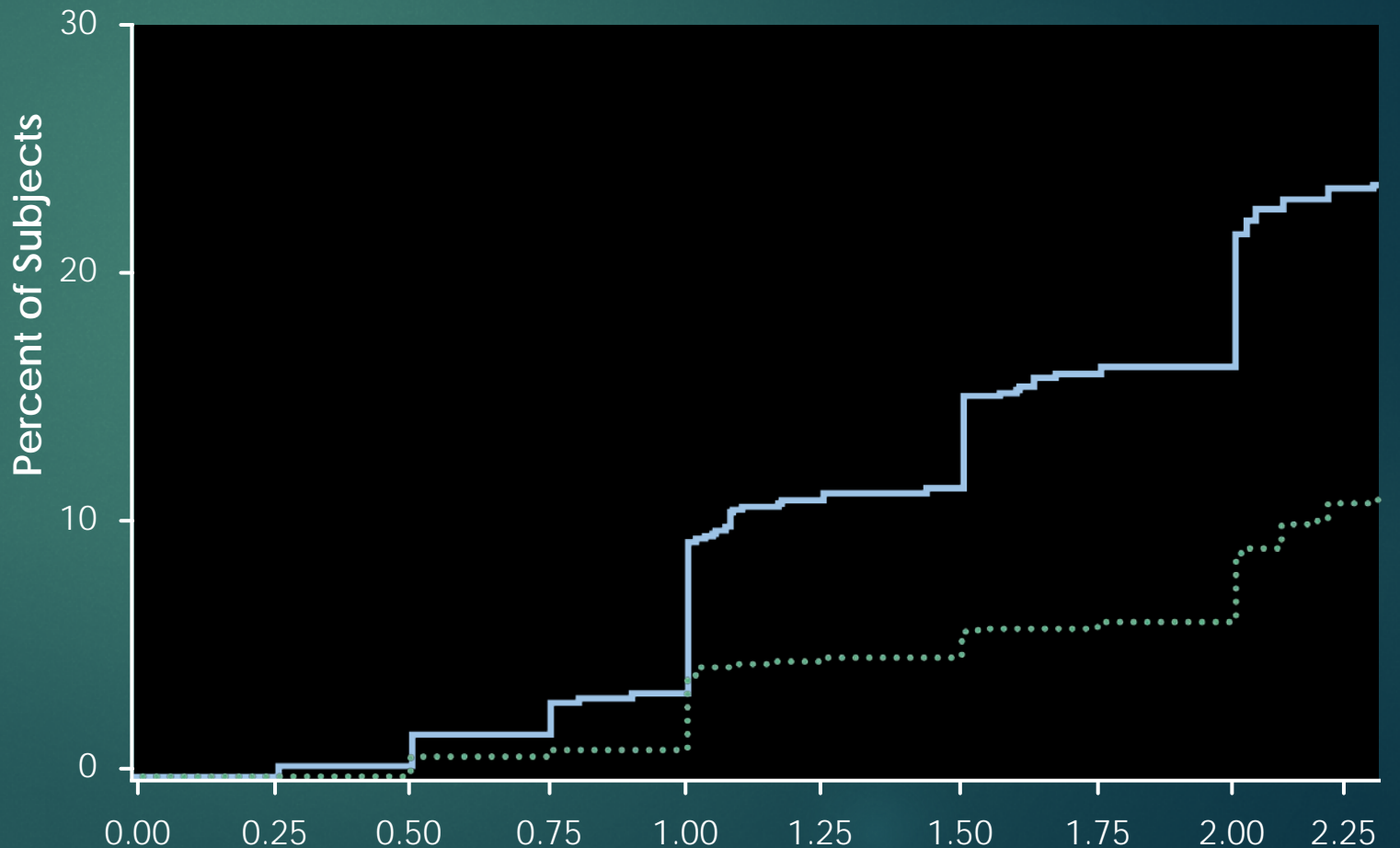
- ▶ “Gepants”
 - ▶ Ubrogepant 50 mg, 100 mg tablets
Max 200 mg per day
 - ▶ Rimegepant 75 mg ODT
Max 75 mg per day
 - ▶ Clinical trials very impressive
 - ▶ Minimal adverse events
 - ▶ No vasoconstriction
 - ▶ Mechanism of action
 - Peripheral CGRP blockade



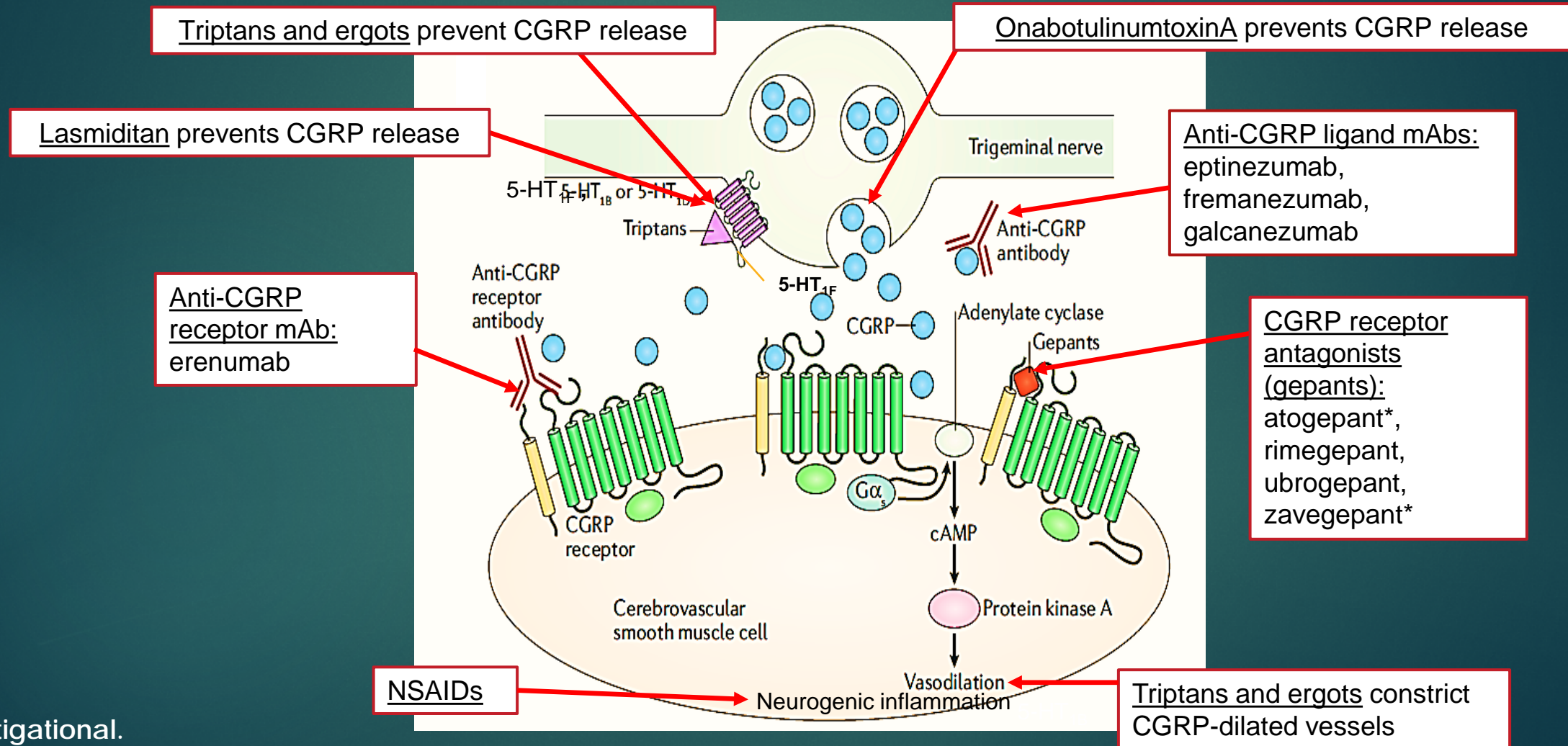
NSAIDS

- ▶ Ketorolac—30 mg IM, 10 mg tablet (consider 20mg q 12 hours, max 2 days per week)
- ▶ Indomethacin—50 mg q 8 hours with food
- ▶ Meloxicam—15 mg tablet
- ▶ Diclofenac—50 mg in crystalized formulation, regular tablet crushed

Percentage of Patients with Initial Headache Pain Freedom within 2 Hours



Targets: Summary



*Investigational.

mAb = monoclonal antibody.

Edvinsson L, et al. *Nat Rev Neurol*. 2018;14(6):338-350.

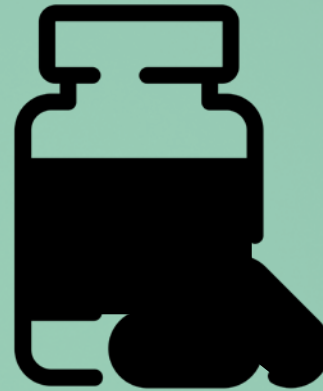


Preventive Treatment Options For Migraine

When to Start Preventive Medications



4+
headache
days



Acute meds
not working
(regardless of
number of
headache days)



Hemiplegic
and basilar
migraine

Goals of Preventive Migraine Treatment



Reduce
migraine frequency and severity

Improve
function and reduce disability

Traditional Migraine Prevention *Medication Consequences*

Limited Use

39%

candidates for
migraine
prevention

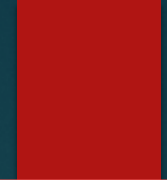
29%

prescribed
migraine
prevention

12%

using
migraine
prevention

Prevention Medication Level of Evidence



Level A: Medications with established efficacy (≥ class I trials)	Level B: Medications are probably effective (1 class I or 2 class II studies)	Level C: Medications are possibly effective (1 class II study)	Level U: Inadequate or conflicting data to support or refute medication use	Other: Medications that are established as possibly or probably ineffective
Antiepileptic drugs	Antidepressants/SSRI/SNRI/TCA	ACE inhibitors Lisinopril	Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor	Established as not effective
Divalproex sodium*	Amitriptyline	Antihistamines	Acetazolamide	Antiepileptic drugs
Sodium valproate	Venlafaxine	Cyproheptadine	Antithrombotics	Lamotrigine
Topiramate*	β-blockers	α-agonists	Acenocoumarol	Probably not effective
β-blockers	Atenolol ^a	Clonidine	Coumadin	Clomipramine ^a
Metoprolol	Nadolol ^a	Guanfacine ^a	Picotamide	Possibly not effective
Propranolol*	Triptans (MRM ^b)	Antiepileptic drugs	Antidepressants SSRI/SNRI	Acebutolol ^a
Timolol ^{a*}	Naratriptan ^b	Carbamazepine ^a	Fluvoxamine ^a	Clonazepam ^a
Triptans (MRM ^b)	Zolmitriptan ^b	β-blockers	Fluoxetine	Nabumetone ^a
Frovatriptan ^b		Nebivolol	Antiepileptic drugs	Oxcarbazepine
Candesartan		Pindolol ^a	Gabapentin	Telmisartan
			TCA	
			Protriptyline ^a	
			β-blockers	
			Bisoprolol ^a	



MRM = menstrually related migraine; SSRI = selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; SNRI = serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor; TCA = tricyclic antidepressant; ACE = angiotensin-converting enzyme.

Traditional Migraine Prevention

Mechanism of Action



Inhibition of cortical spreading depression (CSD)

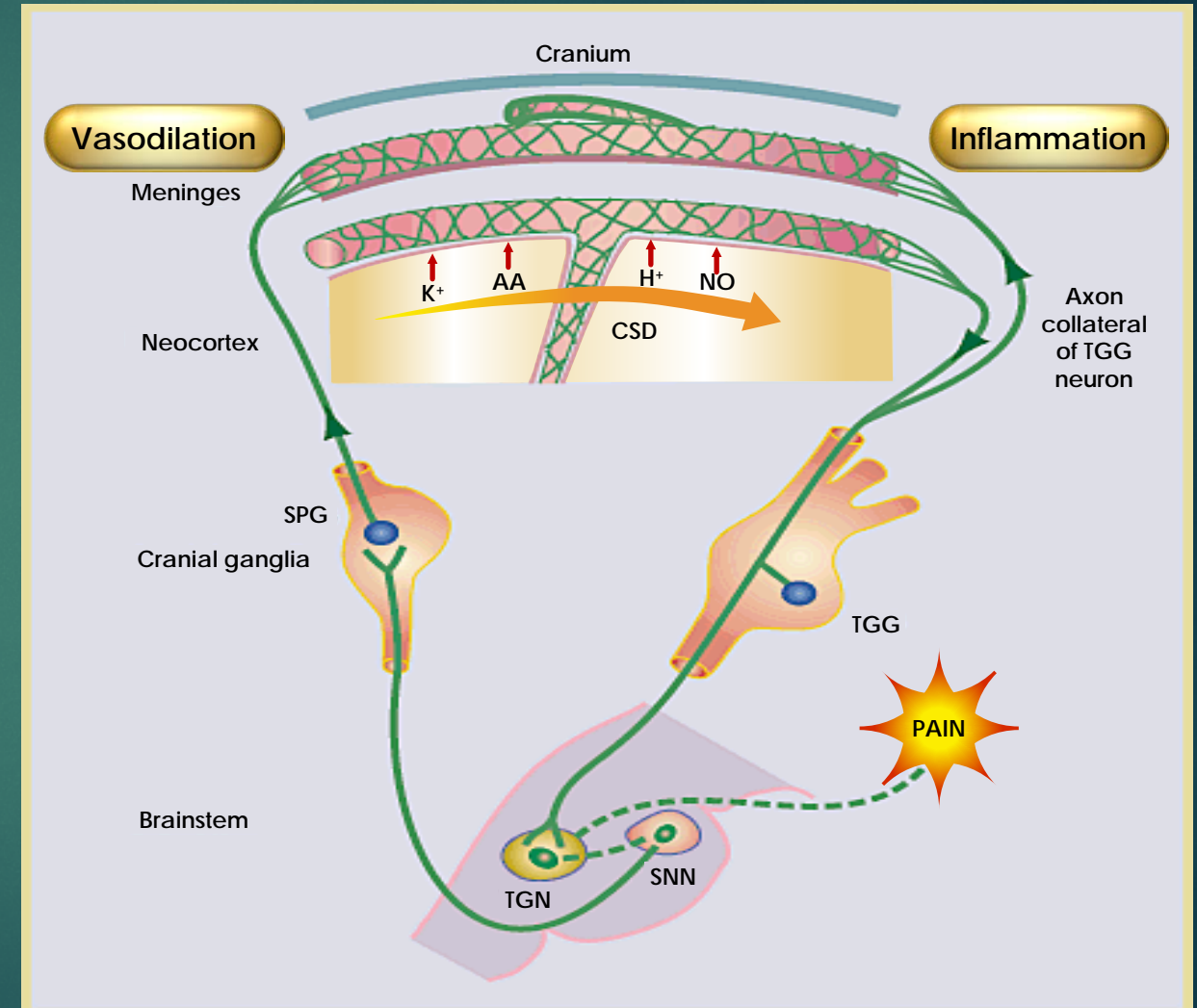
Inhibition of CSD

Conditions favoring CSD increase migraine frequency

- ▶ Environmental light
- ▶ Hypoglycemia
- ▶ Female sex

Many, but not all, traditional migraine preventive agents have been found to inhibit CSD in animal models

- ▶ Valproate
- ▶ Topiramate
- ▶ Amitriptyline
- ▶ Propranolol



K^+ = potassium; AA = arachidonic acid; H^+ = hydrogen;
TGG = trigeminal ganglion; SPG = sphenopalatine ganglion; TGN = trigeminal nerve; SSN = suprascapular nerve.
Ayata C, et al. *Ann Neurol*. 2006;59:652-661. Zhang X, et al. *J Neurosci*. 2010;30:8807-8814.

Traditional Migraine Prevention *Medication Outcome*

Limited efficacy

- 50% reduction in 50% of patients
- Delayed onset—weeks to months

Limited tolerability

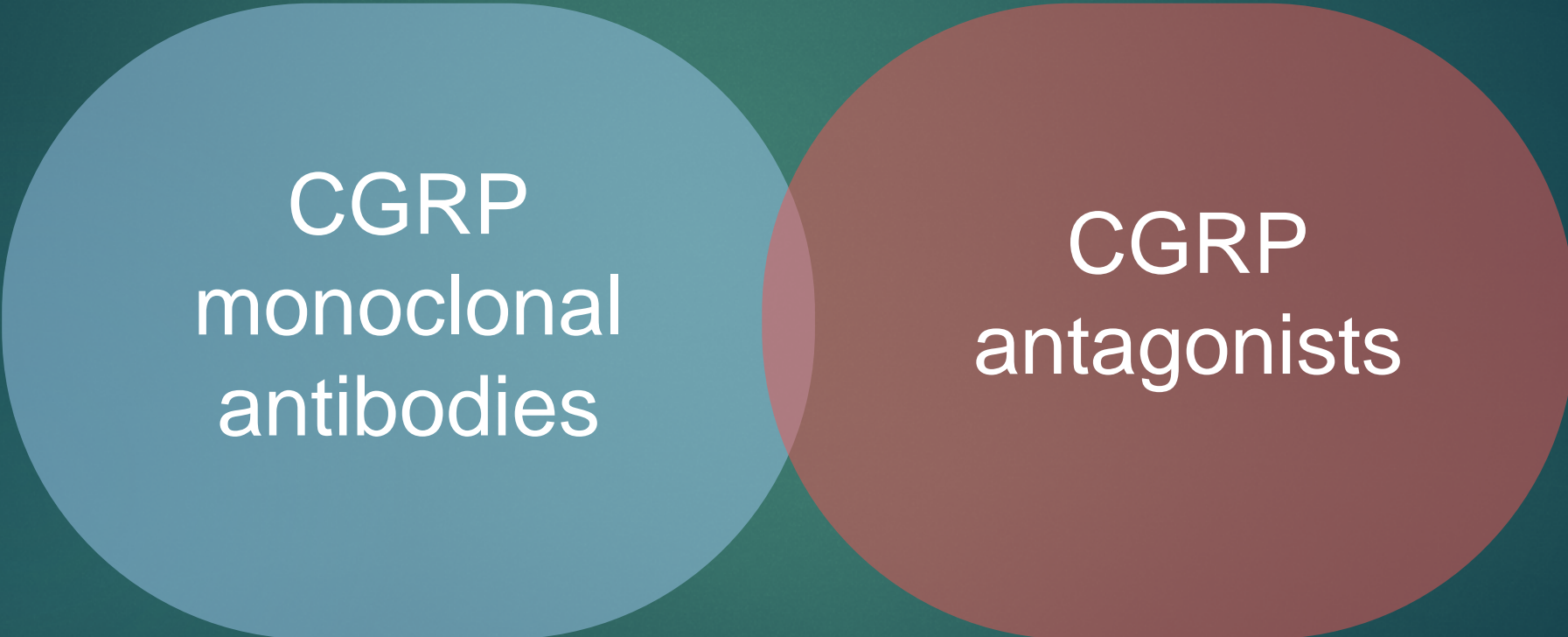
- Most effective agents with multiple side effects
- Interactions with drugs or medical conditions

Limited compliance

- 24% compliance at 6 months, 17% at 12 months

Modern Migraine Prevention

Migraine-Specific Therapies



CGRP
monoclonal
antibodies

CGRP
antagonists

Anti-CGRP Monoclonal Antibodies

Practical Prescribing

Erenumab

70 mg or
140 mg SC
monthly

Fremanezumab

225 mg SC
monthly or
675 mg SC
quarterly

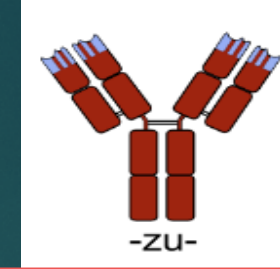
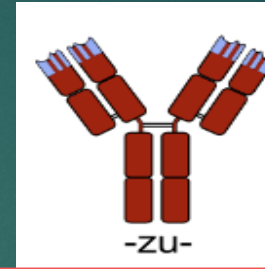
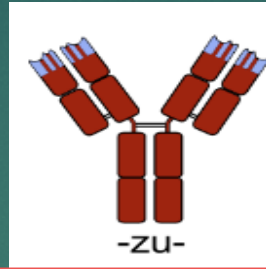
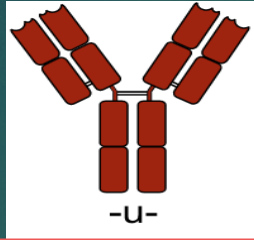
Galcanezumab

240 mg loading
dose, then
120 mg SC
monthly

Eptinezumab

100 or 300 mg
IV quarterly

CGRP Monoclonal Antibodies



	Erenumab	Galcanezumab	Fremanezumab	Eptinezumab
Dosing	Monthly SC	Monthly SC	Monthly or quarterly SC	Quarterly IV
T_{1/2} (days)	~28 days	25-30 days	21 days	~27 days
Target	CGRP receptor	CGRP peptide or ligand	CGRP peptide or ligand	CGRP peptide or ligand
Regulatory status 2020	FDA approval migraine 4-30 days per month	FDA approval migraine 4-30 days per month and episodic cluster	FDA approval migraine 4-30 days per month	FDA approval migraine 4-30 days per month

SC = subcutaneous; IV = intravenous; FDA = US Food and Drug Administration.
 Charles A, et al. *Lancet*. 2019;394(10210):1765-1774.



Gepants for Migraine Prevention Additional Modern Prevention Options

Rimegepant QOD for EM/CM Prevention

Baseline: ~7.8 migraine days/month	Rimegepant (n=348)		Placebo (n=347)	
	n	Point estimate (95% CI)	n	Point estimate (95% CI)
Change in mean number of migraine days per month during weeks 9-12, days (primary efficacy outcome) [†]	348	-4.3 (-4.8 to -3.9)	347	-3.5 (-4.0 to -3.0)

- Placebo-controlled RCT with rimegepant 75 mg BID preventively for 3 months
- Mixed population of episodic and chronic migraine w/ or w/o aura
- Mean baseline migraine frequency: 7.8 days/month
- Placebo reduction weeks 9-12: 4.3 days/month (-3.5 days)

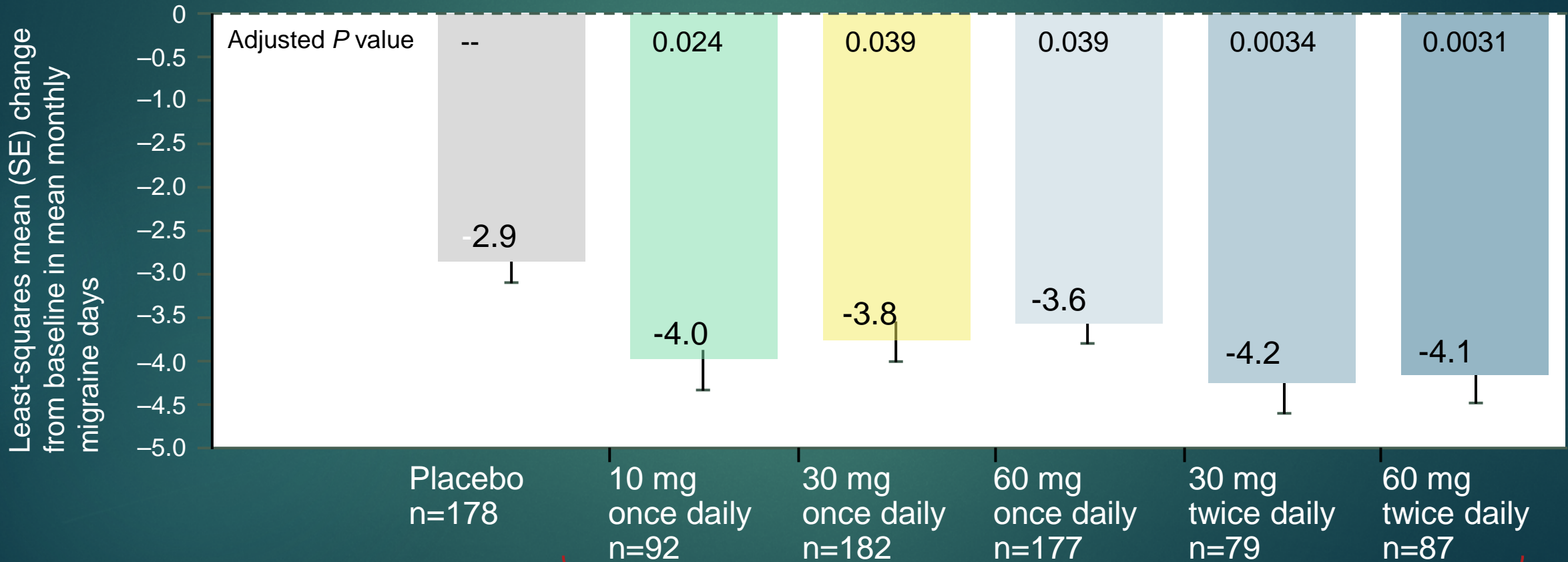
QOD = every other day; CI = confidence interval; RCT = randomized controlled trial.

Croop R, et al. *Lancet*. 2021;397(10268):51-60. FDA [www.accessdata.fda.gov]. Accessed June 30, 2021.

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2021/212728s006lbl.pdf.

Atogepant Approved for Episodic Migraine Prevention

Change from baseline in mean monthly migraine days across the 12-week treatment period in the modified intention-to-treat population



SE = standard error.

Goadsby PJ, et al. *Lancet Neurol.* 2020;19(9):727-737.

Modern Migraine Prevention *Medication* *Outcomes*

Improved efficacy

Every primary endpoint, every migraine trial met

- ▶ Migraine with and without aura
- ▶ Episodic migraine
- ▶ Chronic migraine
- ▶ Migraine failing multiple preventive medications
- ▶ Migraine with and without medication overuse headache

50%, 75%, 100% responder rates

Onset in days to weeks

Modern Migraine Prevention *Practical Management Expectations*



Prior authorization and re-authorization



Managing injection site reactions



“Wearing off”



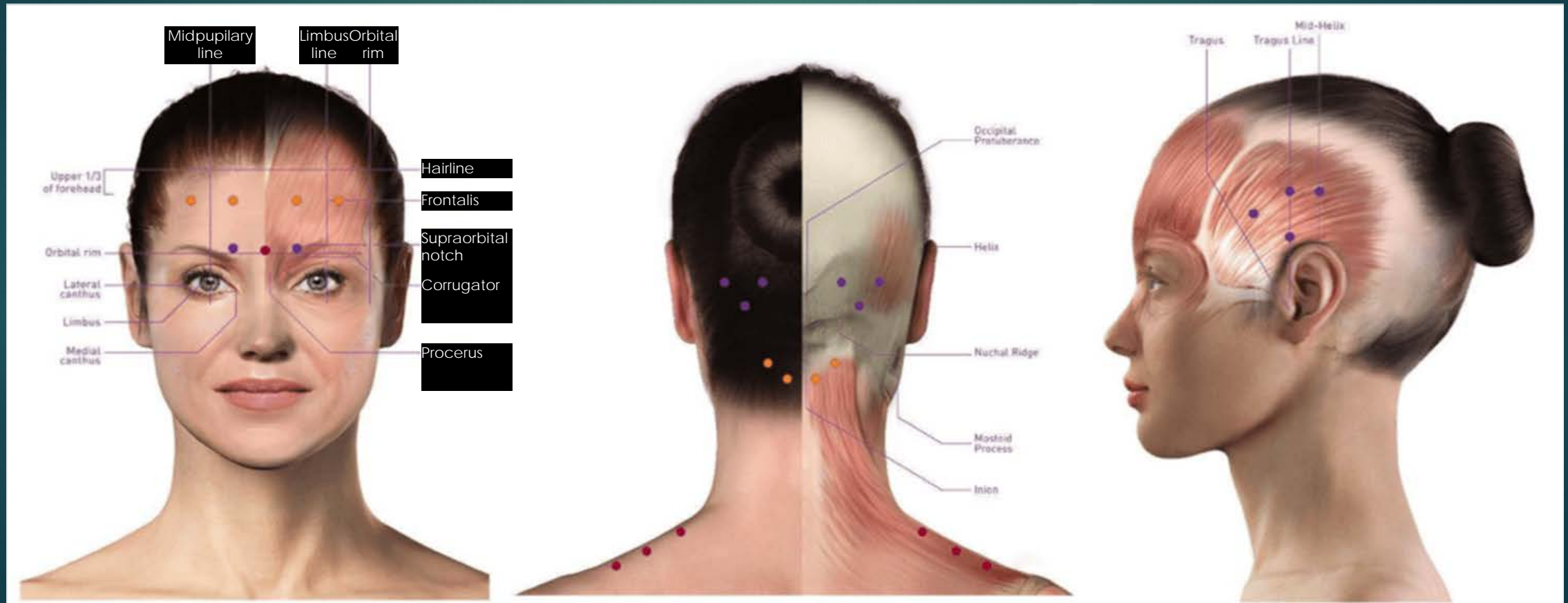
Impact on triptan response



Navigating expected migraine variations

Neurotoxin for Migraine Prevention

OnabotulinumtoxinA
Indicated for chronic migraine



You Can Do This !!!



Primary Care is
Uniquely Suited for
Headache Care



There is a diagnostic
pattern to follow



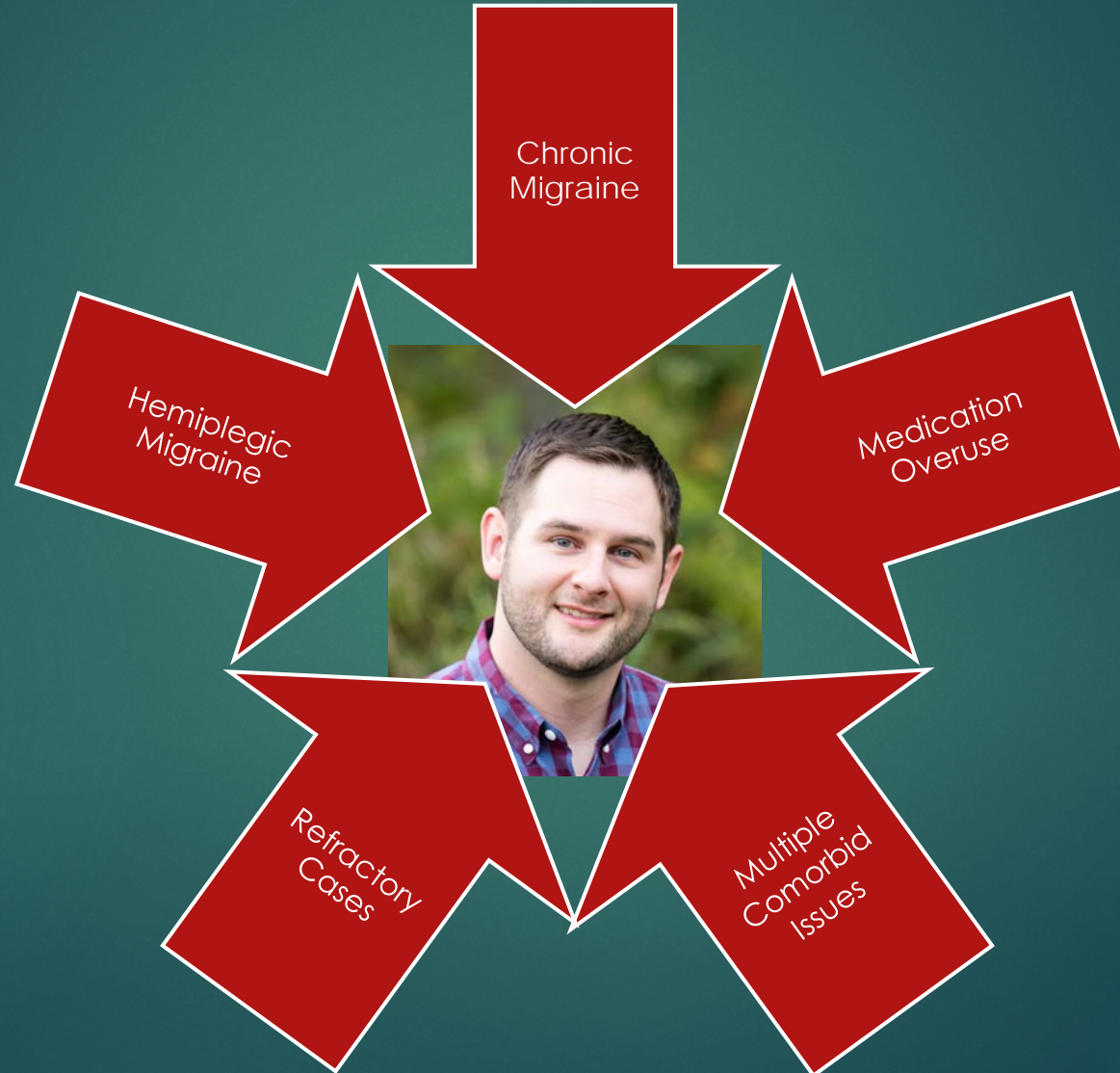
There is a growing tool
set for acute and
preventative treatment



Patients deserve our
efforts to improve their
lives.

You can leverage your
continuity
You know the full medical
picture
You have closer follow up
You can lead the workup in
more effective ways

When do Referral Makes Sense?



KEY PRACTICE POINTS

Migraine is epidemic.

Primary care is by far the most common location for patients seeking care.

Migraine and Secondary headaches have a specific diagnostic criteria.

There are a vast array of treatment options to manage migraine both for acute rescue and chronic prevention.



Thank You !!

Questions??