

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEADACHES: APPROACH TO DIAGNOSIS

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DISCLOSURES

- Advisory Boards and/or Lecture Fees for:
 - Abbvie
 - Eli Lilly
 - Lundbeck
 - Teva
 - Pfizer

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEADACHES?

- Practical importance to the clinician
 - We do not want to misdiagnose and treat incorrectly
 - Secondary headaches by definition have a **cause** which may be addressed
- There are some conditions which seem to be on the borderland between primary and secondary headaches, which need special care
- As migraine treatments become more specific and more effective we need to know which conditions that resemble migraine may respond to such treatments and which will not.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTLINE

- Understand the importance of accurate diagnosis in headache
- Review some diagnostic traps or difficulties
 - Some practical tips: secondary headaches which can mimic migraine
- Critically review what we mean by the terms primary and secondary headache
 - Are some “primary” headaches really secondary headaches?
 - Can some secondary headaches transform into migraine?

PRIMARY & SECONDARY HEADACHES: SOME POINTS TO TAKE AWAY

- Primary headaches: Migraine, TTH & TACs are not contentious
 - Some of the other “primary” headache disorders are less well delineated
- Secondary headaches may have migrainous features
 - SNOOP4. Beware low pressure H/A, AVM, IIH, venous thrombosis
- Are some primary headache disorders really secondary?
 - NDPH, Headache with sexual activity, cough headache
- Can secondary headaches evolve into migraine? Implications for treatment