

LACK  
OF SLEEP  
STRESS INDUCED  
PARALYSING  
**CLUSTER**  
CAN'T CONCENTRATE  
**HITS HARD**  
LASTS HOURS TO DAYS  
**DOUBLE**  
**VISION**  
NAUSEATING  
**MIGRAINE**  
CAN'T FUNCTION  
**TENSION**  
INSUFFERABLE  
**BLINDING**  
CAN'T SEE PROPERLY  
**FEELING FAINT**  
NOT MYSELF ANYMORE  
PHYSICALLY SICK

# Patient case study.

## Headache

**#ListenToPain**

Brought to you by the makers of



Start here >

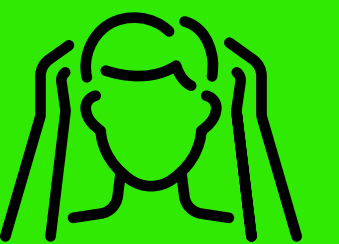


# Gregory

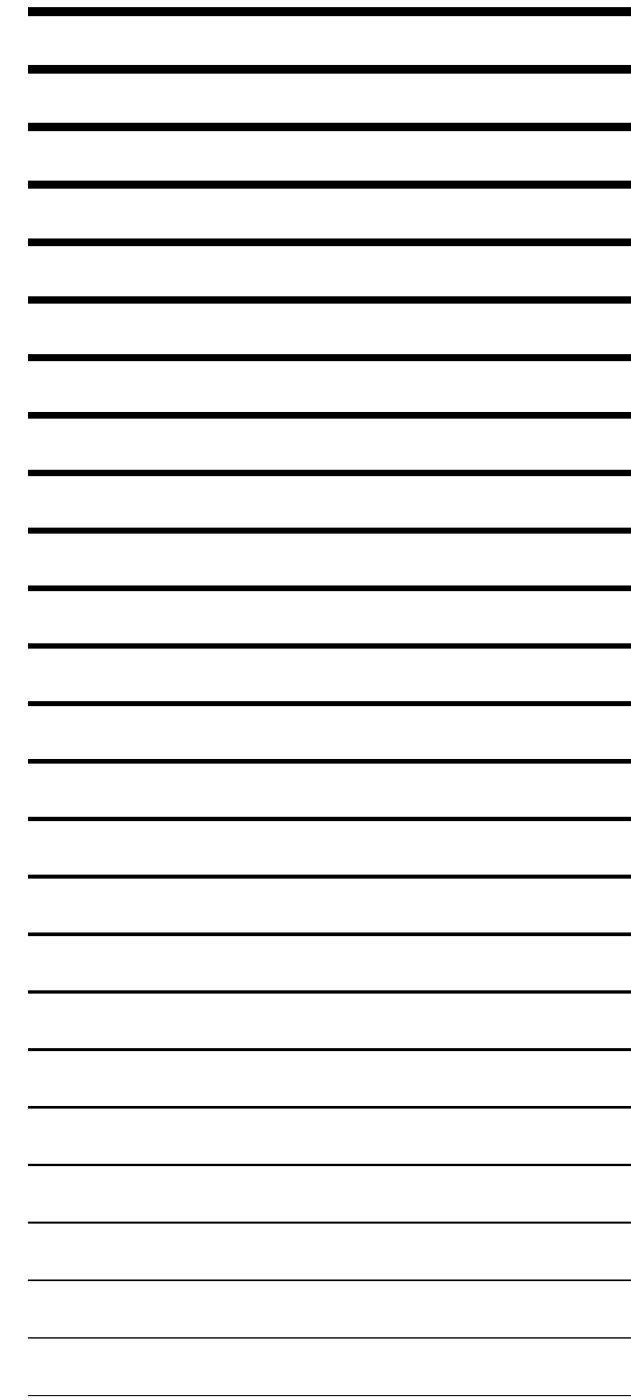
45 years.

Gregory is an executive working in a middle management position at a leading financial organisation.

He complains of frequent headaches, often towards the end of the working day.



Presentation



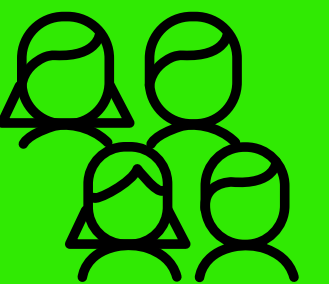
He is, however, now very worried about these frequent headaches that he had been neglecting all this while.<sup>1</sup>



He undergoes regular health screenings.

3 years ago he was diagnosed with moderate hypertension and takes β-blocker 50mg once a day, regularly.

He has to continue working in the evenings in spite of a headache.<sup>1</sup> This substantially impacts his work performance and QoL.<sup>1</sup>



QoL, quality of life.

1. Simic S, et al. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2020;17(18):6918.a.

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up





### Detailed history:

- Headaches mostly in the evenings since > 3 months, almost 4 times a week, lasting for 3 to 4 hours.
- Pain appears as a band extending bilaterally back from the forehead across the sides of the head to the occiput.
- Sometimes, headache extends to the posterior neck muscles.
- Varies from mild-to-moderate-intensity pressure-pain.
- No associated nausea or vomiting.
- Feels eye strain but no visual disturbances.

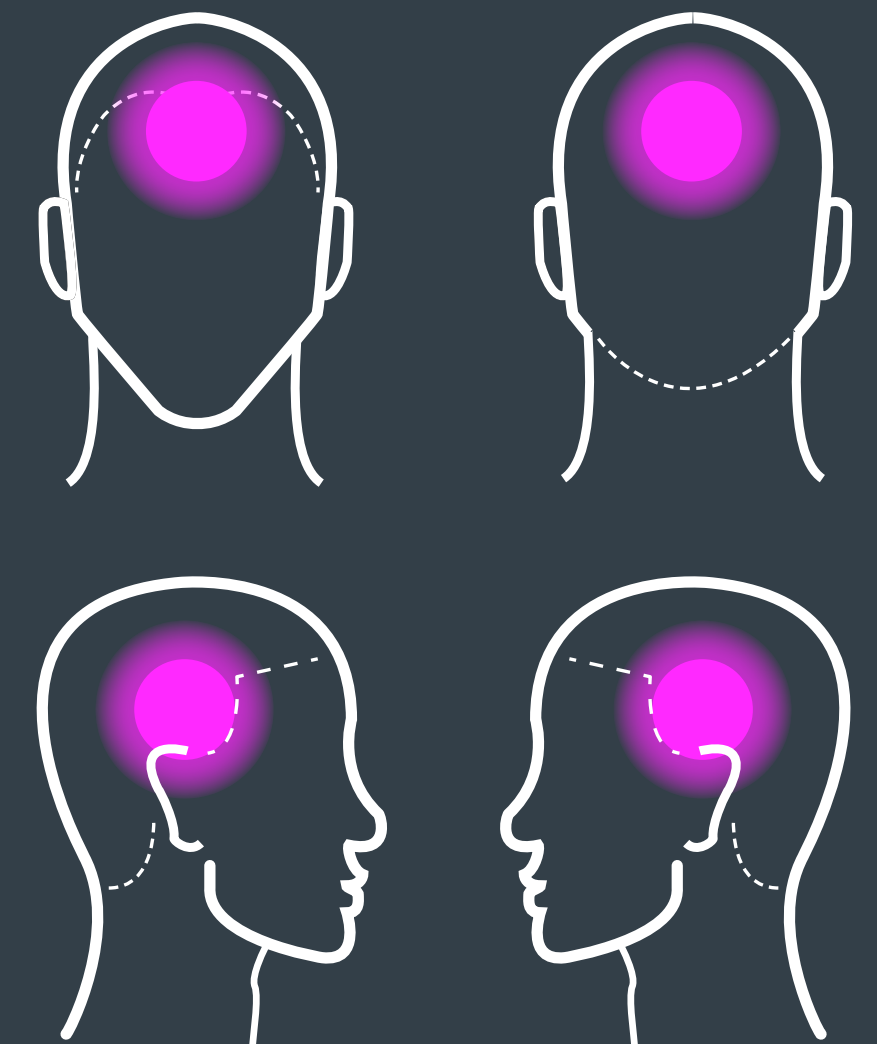
### Aggravating and alleviating features:

- Continuous and long working hours seem to trigger the headaches.

### Past history:

- Hypertension for 3 years, takes atenolol 50mg once a day, regularly, BP is well maintained since then.
- No history of diabetes or any other chronic illness.
- No significant family history.
- Has regular health check ups.

### Pain pattern:



BP, blood pressure.

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up

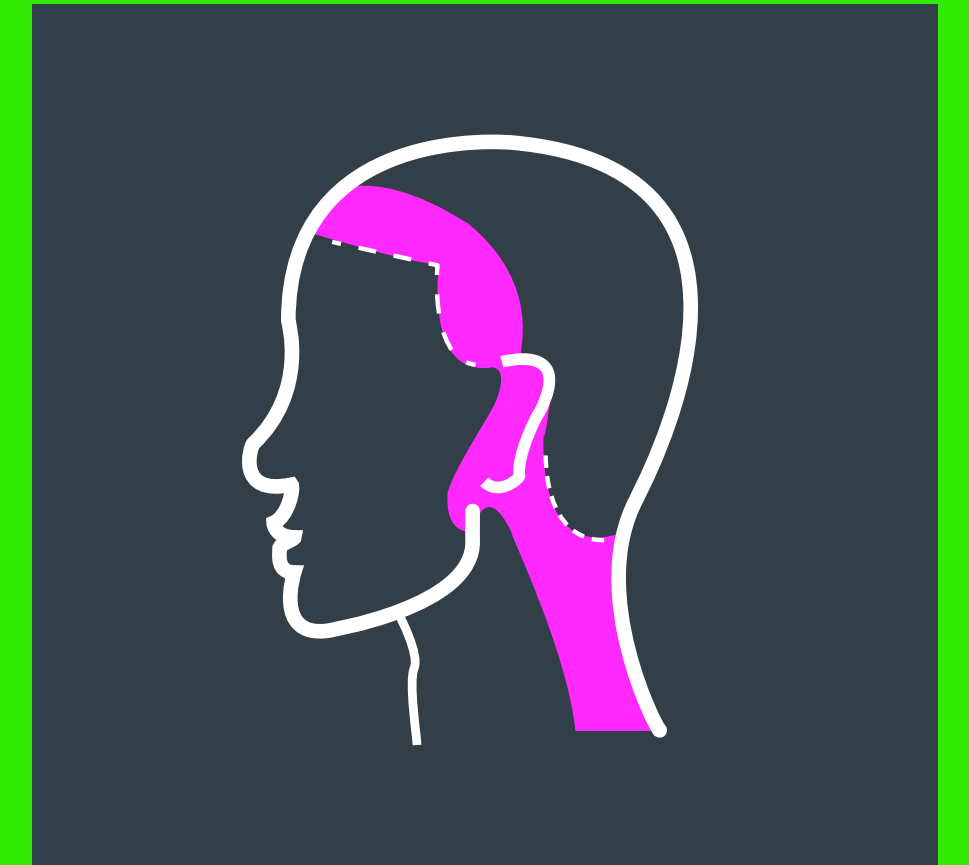


Clinical examination



## Clinical examination.

- > General appearance: **Good.**
- > **Pericranial muscle tenderness present.**
- > **BP: 126/80mmHg.**
- > PR: 66bpm.
- > Temperature: 37°C.
- > BMI: 22.1kg/m<sup>2</sup>.
- > Systemic and physical examination did not reveal any significant findings.



BMI, body mass index; BP, blood pressure; PR, pulse rate.

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis

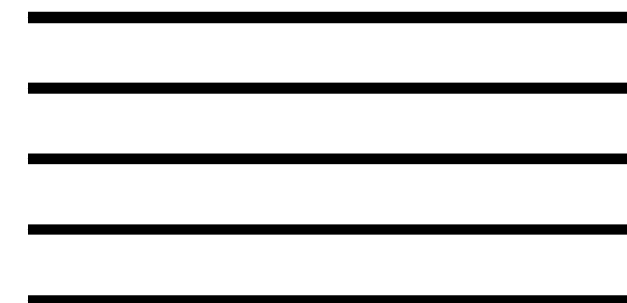


Treatment plan



Follow-up





# Approach to evaluation and management.

01

What type of headache does Gregory have?

02

How can he best manage his headaches which are impacting his quality of life?

03

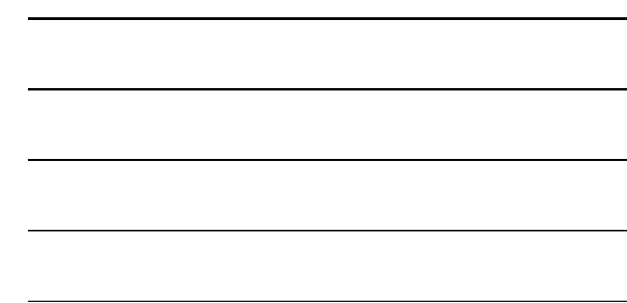
What do guidelines say?

04

What is the clinical evidence?

05


Which is the most suitable medicine for Gregory?



Presentation 

History 

Clinical examination 

Differential diagnosis 

Treatment plan 

Follow-up 



#ListenToPain

Clinical  
examination



What type of  
headache does  
Gregory have?

Click an option to select your answer.

**MIGRAINE**

**TENSION  
HEADACHE**

**TRIGEMINAL  
AUTOMATIC  
CEPHALALGIAS**

**SECONDARY  
HEADACHE**

**OTHER  
HEADACHE  
DISORDER**

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical  
examination



Differential  
diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Clinical  
examination



What type of  
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× **MIGRAINE**

TENSION  
HEADACHE

TRIGEMINAL  
AUTOMATIC  
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OTHER  
HEADACHE  
DISORDER

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical  
examination



Differential  
diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up





#ListenToPain

Clinical examination



What type of headache does Gregory have?

Click an option to select your answer.

MIGRAINE

TENSION HEADACHE

× TRIGEMINAL AUTOMATIC CEPHALALGIAS

SECONDARY HEADACHE

OTHER HEADACHE DISORDER

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Clinical  
examination



What type of  
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TENSION  
HEADACHE

TRIGEMINAL  
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CEPHALALGIAS



SECONDARY  
HEADACHE

OTHER  
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DISORDER

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical  
examination



Differential  
diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Clinical  
examination



What type of  
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HEADACHE

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HEADACHE  
DISORDER

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical  
examination



Differential  
diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Clinical examination



What type of headache does Gregory have?

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MIGRAINE



TENSION HEADACHE

TRIGEMINAL AUTOMATIC CEPHALALGIAS

SECONDARY HEADACHE

OTHER HEADACHE DISORDER

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up





# International Classification of Headache Disorders.<sup>1,2</sup>



## Part 1

### The primary headaches

1. Migraine
2. Tension-type headache
3. Trigeminal autonomic cephalgia
4. Other primary headache disorders

## Part 2

### The secondary headaches

Headache (or facial pain) attributed to:

5. Trauma or injury to the head and/or neck
6. Cranial or cervical vascular disease
7. Nonvascular intracranial disorder
8. A substance or its withdrawal
9. Infection
10. Disorder of homeostasis
11. Disorder of the cranium, neck, eyes, ears, nose, sinuses, teeth, mouth, or other facial or cervical structure
12. Psychiatric disorder

## Part 3

### Painful cranial neuropathies, other facial pains, and other headaches

13. Painful cranial neuropathies and other facial pain
14. Other headache disorders

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



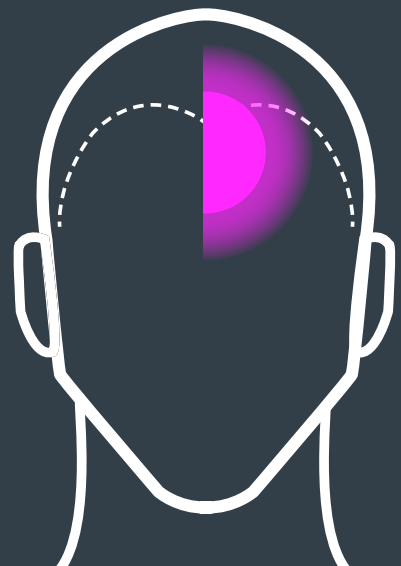
Follow-up



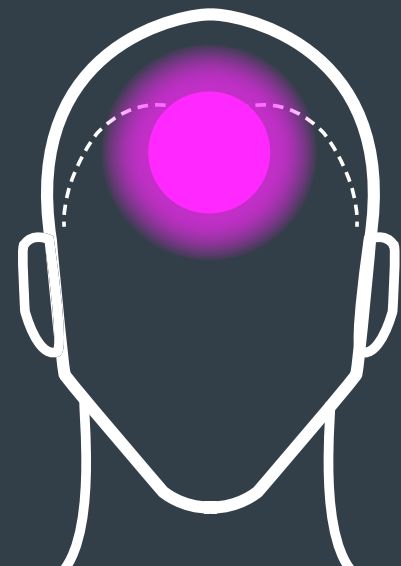
Differential diagnosis 

# What type of primary headache does Gregory have?

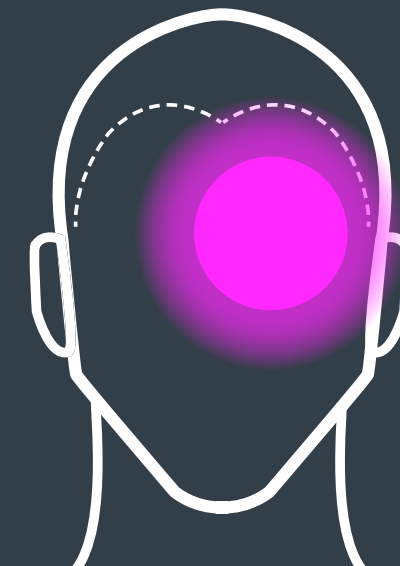
Migraine



Tension-type headache



Trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias




How do we differentiate? 



Presentation 

History 

Clinical examination 

Differential diagnosis 

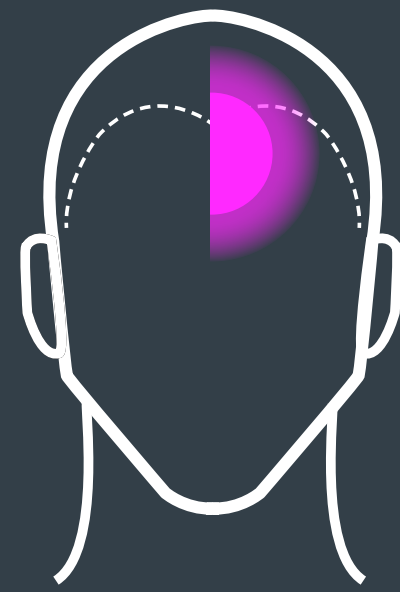
Treatment plan 

Follow-up 

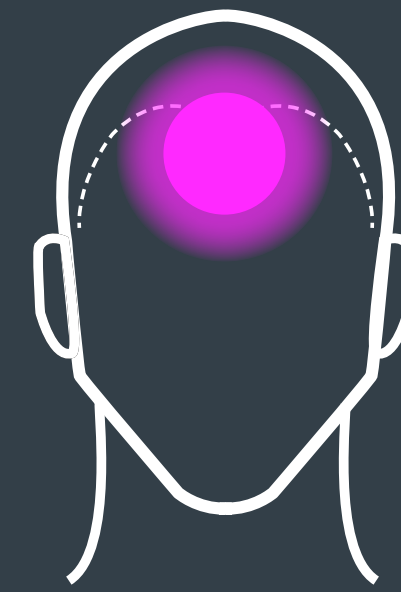


Differential diagnosis 

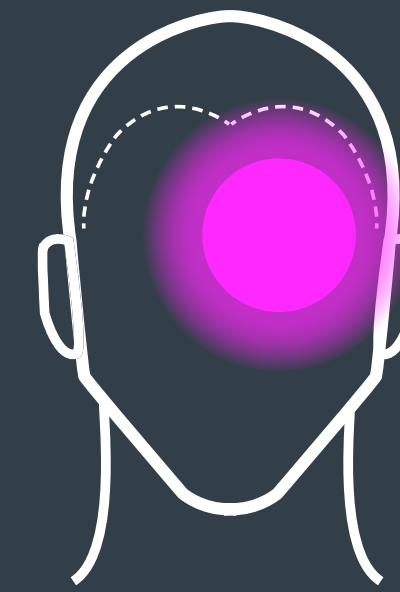
What is the guidelines-based differential diagnosis of primary headaches?<sup>1-3</sup>



Migraine



Tension-type headache



Trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias (TACs)



1. Headache Classification Committee of the International Headache Society. *Cephalalgia* 2018;38(1):1-211. 2. Rizzoli P, Mullally W. *Am J Med* 2018;131(1):17-24. 3. Becker W, et al. *Can Fam Physician* 2015;61(8):670-679.

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



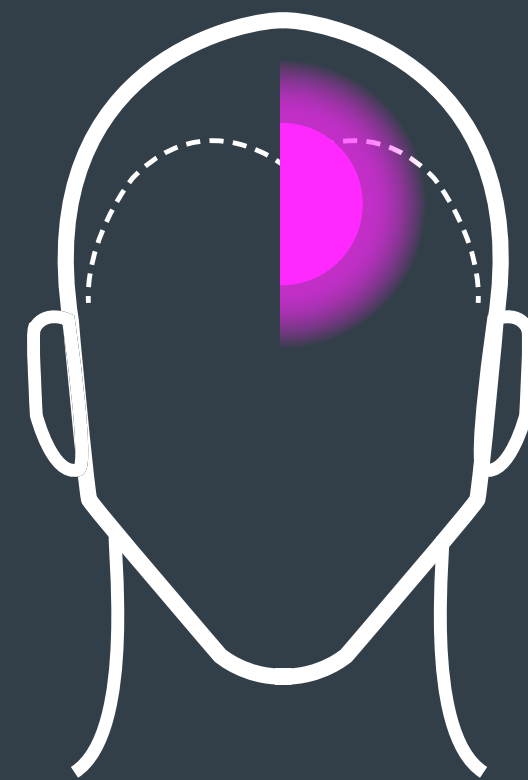
Follow-up





Differential diagnosis 

What is the guidelines-based differential diagnosis of primary headaches?<sup>1-3</sup>



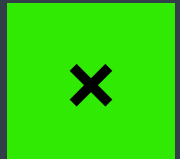
### Migraine

- A. At least five attacks<sup>1</sup> fulfilling criteria B-D
- B. Headache attacks lasting 4-72 hours (when untreated or unsuccessfully treated).<sup>2,3</sup>
- 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

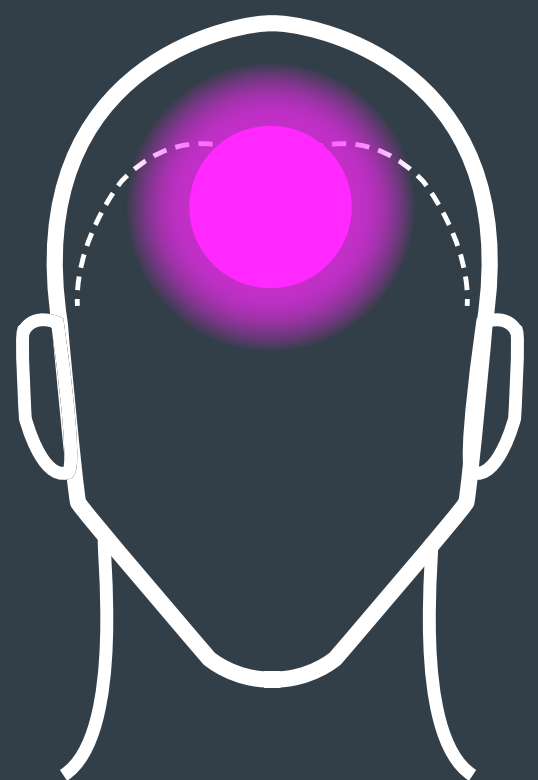
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Differential diagnosis 

What is the guidelines-based differential diagnosis of primary headaches?<sup>1-3</sup>



### Tension-type headache

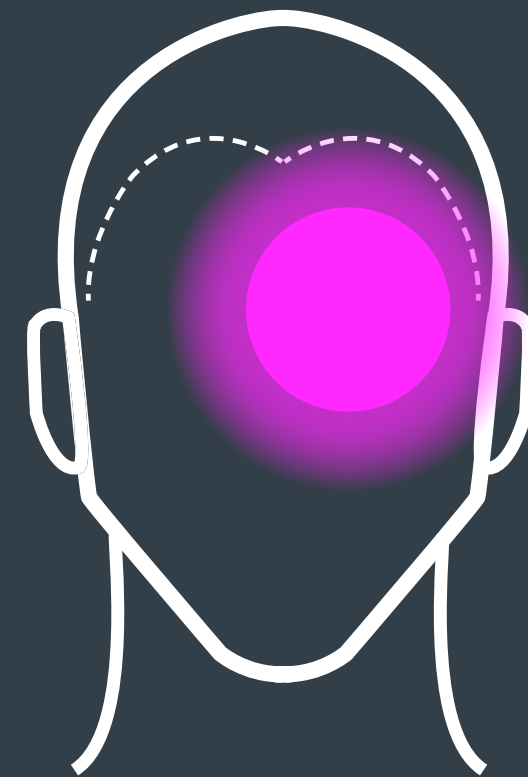


- A. At least 10 episodes of headache occurring on <1 day/month on average (<12 days/year) and fulfilling criteria B-D**
- B. Lasting from 30 minutes to seven days**
- C. At least two of the following four characteristics:**
  - 1. Bilateral location
  - 2. Pressing or tightening (non-pulsating) quality
  - 3. Mild or moderate intensity
  - 4. Not aggravated by routine physical activity such as walking or climbing stairs
- D. Both of the following:**
  - 1. No nausea or vomiting
  - 2. No more than one of photophobia or phonophobia

1. Headache Classification Committee of the International Headache Society. *Cephalalgia* 2018;38(1):1-211. 2. Rizzoli P, Mullally W. *Am J Med* 2018;131(1):17-24. 3. Becker W, et al. *Can Fam Physician* 2015;61(8):670-679.

Differential diagnosis 

What is the guidelines-based differential diagnosis of primary headaches?<sup>1-3</sup>



### Trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias (TACs)

- A. At least five attacks<sup>1</sup> fulfilling criteria B-D
- B. Severe or very severe unilateral orbital, supraorbital and/or temporal pain lasting 15-180 minutes (when untreated)<sup>2,3</sup>
- C. Either or both of the following:
  - 1. At least one of the following symptoms or signs, ipsilateral to the headache:
    - a) Conjunctival injection and/or lacrimation
    - b) Nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhoea
    - c) Eyelid oedema
    - d) Forehead and facial sweating
    - e) Miosis and/or ptosis
  - 2. A sense of restlessness or agitation
- D. Occurring with a frequency between one every other day and eight per day<sup>2</sup>

1. Headache Classification Committee of the International Headache Society. *Cephalalgia* 2018;38(1):1-211. 2. Rizzoli P, Mullally W. *Am J Med* 2018;131(1):17-24. 3. Becker W, et al. *Can Fam Physician* 2015;61(8):670-679.

# What is the diagnosis?



**Pain pattern** ✓



**Pericranial muscle tenderness** ✓

## Therefore, Gregory has a tension-type headache

- > It is a dull, bilateral, mild-to moderate-intensity pressure-pain.<sup>1</sup>
- > Pericranial muscle tenderness is an important physical finding in the diagnosis of tension-type headache.<sup>1</sup>
- > No nausea and vomiting.

1. Rizzoli P, Mullally W. Am J Med 2018;131(1):17-24.



# What lifestyle modifications should be suggested to Gregory?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Self-management interventions for tension-type headache are very effective in reducing pain intensity, mood and headache-related disability.<sup>1</sup>

- 1. Eat nutritious food on a regular schedule
- 2. Avoid excess caffeine
- 3. Ease muscle tension. Massage, apply heat or ice
- 4. Exercise regularly
- 5. Quit smoking
- 6. Relax. Try deep breathing exercises
- 7. Get enough sleep
- 8. Keep stress under control

1. Probyn K, et al. *BMJ Open* 2017;7(8):e016670. 2. Mayo Clinic. Tension-type headaches: Self-care measures for relief. Available at: [www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tension-headache/in-depth/headaches/art-20047631](http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tension-headache/in-depth/headaches/art-20047631) (last accessed May 2021).





# What are the pharmacological options for TTH?

Tension-type headache is often managed with over-the-counter analgesics.<sup>1-3</sup>

Paracetamol (or APAP)

Ibuprofen

Acetylsalicylic acid

*All of the above in combination with caffeine*



APAP, n-acetyl-para-aminophenol; TTH, tension-type headache.

1. Derry C, et al. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2012;(3):CD009281. 2. Ali Z, et al. *Curr Med Res Opin* 2007;23:841. 3. Zhang W. *Drug Saf* 2001;24:1127-1142.





# What are the pharmacological options for TTH?

## Monotherapy in TTH.

For acute treatment of tension-type headaches, most guidelines recommend:

- > Paracetamol (500-1000mg); level I or grade A.
- > Ibuprofen (200-800mg); level I or grade A.

According to clinical guidelines, the choice of therapy should be based on patient risk profile.

Paracetamol is preferred in:

- Elderly.
- GI risk.
- Kidney disease.
- Children.
- CVD conditions like hypertension & diabetes.

Ibuprofen is the suitable choice amongst OTC NSAIDs for:

- Children under 14 years of age.
- Patients with GI risk.



**Based on robust evidence 15 guidelines & 6 systemic reviews.<sup>1-23</sup>**

International Headache Society  
The European Federation of Neurological Societies  
The American Headache Society  
Canadian Headache Society

Primary efficacy parameter assessment for TTH is "pain free after 2 hours"

CVD, cardiovascular disease; GI, gastrointestinal; NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; OTC, over-the-counter; TTH, tension-type headache.

[View references >](#)

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis

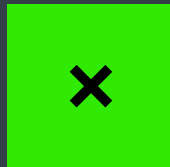


Treatment plan



Follow-up





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2. Marmura M, et al. *Headache* 2015;55(1)3-20.
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8. Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation. Canadian Headache Society guideline. Acute drug therapy for migraine headache. Available at: [www.headachesociety.ca/\\_files/ugd/9f0189\\_2921105eb2a3419aa9e761d71a23fce0.pdf](http://www.headachesociety.ca/_files/ugd/9f0189_2921105eb2a3419aa9e761d71a23fce0.pdf) (last accessed May 2021).
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20. Rabbie R, et al. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2010;(10):CD008039.
21. Cameron C, et al. *Headache* 2015;55(4):221-235.
22. Silver S, et al. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2008;44(1-2):3-9.
23. Wenzel R, et al. *Pharmacotherapy* 2003;23(4):494-505.

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up







# What are the pharmacological options for TTH?

## Combination therapy in TTH.

Compared to monotherapy, combinations of the following showed significantly improved efficacy with favourable tolerability in the vast majority of patients with TTH except for patients with CVD:<sup>24</sup>

- > Paracetamol + caffeine.
- > Ibuprofen + caffeine.

The German and Italian guidelines recommend:

- > Paracetamol + caffeine as first-line or Level I.
- > Ibuprofen + caffeine is recommended as Level II by Italian (SISC) guideline only.



★★★

**Based on robust evidence  
15 guidelines &  
6 systemic reviews.<sup>1-23</sup>**

International Headache Society  
The European Federation  
of Neurological Societies  
The American Headache Society  
Canadian Headache Society

Primary efficacy parameter assessment  
for TTH is "pain free after 2 hours"

CVD, cardiovascular disease; SISC, Società Italiana per lo Studio delle Cefalee; TTH, tension-type headache.

[View references >](#)

Presentation



History



Clinical  
examination



Differential  
diagnosis

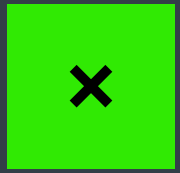


Treatment plan



Follow-up





## References

1. Evers S, et al. *Eur J Neurol* 2009;16(9):968-981.
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Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Treatment  
plan



# What is the most suitable medicine for Gregory?

Gregory's risk profile includes:

Existing comorbidities - CVD (HYPERTENSION)

Click an option to select your answer.

APAP, n-acetyl-para-aminophenol; CVD, cardiovascular disease.

PARACETAMOL  
/APAP

PARACETAMOL  
/APAP + CAFFEINE

IBUPROFEN

IBUPROFEN +  
CAFFEINE

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical  
examination



Differential  
diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



Treatment plan



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×

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Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up





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Treatment plan



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PARACETAMOL /APAP

PARACETAMOL /APAP + CAFFEINE

IBUPROFEN



**IBUPROFEN + CAFFEINE**



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



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Treatment plan



Follow-up





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- PARACETAMOL /APAP + CAFFEINE
- IBUPROFEN
- IBUPROFEN + CAFFEINE



#ListenToPain

Follow-up



What should Gregory's follow-up management be?

Click an option to select your answer.

RECOGNISING TRIGGERS

LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

ALTERNATE THERAPIES

ALL OF THE ABOVE

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up





Follow-up



What should Gregory's follow-up management be?

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× **RECOGNISING TRIGGERS**

LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

ALTERNATE THERAPIES

ALL OF THE ABOVE



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Follow-up



What should Gregory's follow-up management be?

Click an option to select your answer.

RECOGNISING TRIGGERS

× LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

ALTERNATE THERAPIES

ALL OF THE ABOVE

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Follow-up



What should Gregory's follow-up management be?

Click an option to select your answer.

RECOGNISING TRIGGERS

LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS

× ALTERNATE THERAPIES

ALL OF THE ABOVE

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



#ListenToPain

Follow-up



What should Gregory's follow-up management be?

Click an option to select your answer.

- ✓ RECOGNISING TRIGGERS
- ✓ LIFESTYLE MODIFICATIONS
- ✓ ALTERNATE THERAPIES
- ✓ ALL OF THE ABOVE

HALEON



Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up



Follow-up



# Gregory's follow-up management.

Treatment goals for patients with TTH should not only include effective analgesic agents, **but also discovering and ameliorating any circumstances that may be triggering the headaches or causing the patient concern.**<sup>1</sup>

## Alternate therapies

Consider offering non-medication treatments like biofeedback, relaxation training, self-hypnosis, and cognitive therapy, and traditional physical therapy exercises, using ice packs, massage, and "passive mobilisation" of the cervical facets.<sup>1</sup>

## Lifestyle modifications

Seek consistency in lifestyle behaviours and dietary habits, such as change of food consumption pattern and alternative food choices, and cessation of smoking etc.<sup>1</sup>

## Recognising triggers

There is evidence of an association between TTH and diet. Missing meals, smoking, spicy food, foods rich in MSG, coffee and chocolate may be triggers for TTH in South Asian populations.<sup>2</sup>

MSG, monosodium glutamate; TTH: tension-type headache.

1. Miliea P, Brodie J. *Am Fam Physician* 2002;66(5):797-804. 2. Tai M, et al. *J Pain Res* 2018;11:1255-1261.

Presentation



History



Clinical examination



Differential diagnosis



Treatment plan



Follow-up

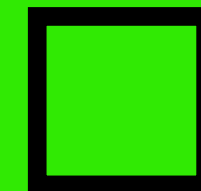




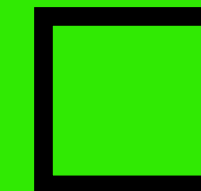
Based on this case study, how comfortable are you in making recommendations to patients like Gregory?

Click an option to select your answer.

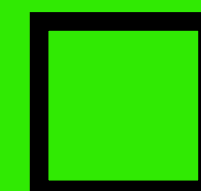
Very comfortable



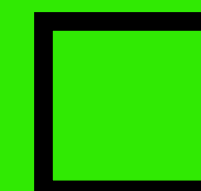
Comfortable



Uncomfortable



Very uncomfortable





Based on this case study, how comfortable are you in making recommendations to patients like Gregory?

Click an option to select your answer.

<b>Very comfortable</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Comfortable</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Uncomfortable</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Very uncomfortable</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

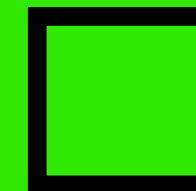




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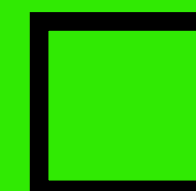
Very comfortable



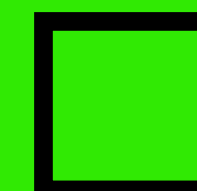
Comfortable



Uncomfortable



Very uncomfortable



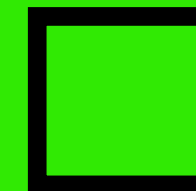




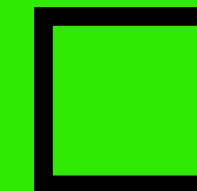
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Very comfortable



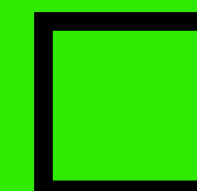
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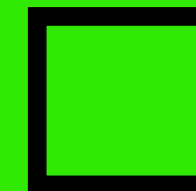




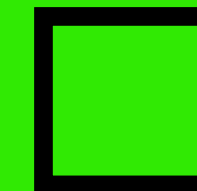
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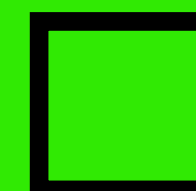
Very comfortable



Comfortable



Uncomfortable



Very uncomfortable



# HALEON

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