

# HEADACHE

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#### DISCLOSURES

- Nil major
- Don't accept from industry (equipment or pharmaceuticals)
  - Flights / Accomodation
  - Honorariums
- Do accept
  - Education
  - Meals



# OUTLINE

- Classification(s)
- Foundational Knowledge
- Assessment
- Specific Diagnoses and Treatments
  - Headache
  - Orofacial pain
  - Cervicogenic pain
- Interventions



# CLASSIFICATION



# CLASSIFICATION - FPM SYLLABUS

Primary Headache

- Migraine
  - Transformed migraine
- Cluster Headache
  - Variants

Secondary Headache

- Medication Related
- Post Traumatic
- Intracranial Pressure
- Referred Headache



#### Learning Outcomes

- Describe classifications of headache and orofacial pain (ICD-II, ICDH)
  - Appraise social, cultural, psychiatric and substance use factors
- Examination of cranial nerves, cervical spine
- Exclude major pathologies (vascular conditions, space occupying lesions)
- Specific knowledge of these pain conditions and treatment options



### ICD-II CLASSIFICATION

- Primary Headaches
  - Migraine
  - Tension Headache
  - Trigeminal Autonomic
     Cephalgias
  - Others

- Secondary Headache
  - Trauma Related
  - Other

- Cranial Neuropathies
  - Trigeminal Neuralgia
  - Burning Mouth
     Syndrome



3.7.13	<ul> <li>Distinguish between the clinical features of the following <i>primary</i> chronic daily headache syndromes:</li> <li>Migraine (with and without aura)</li> <li>Transformed migraine</li> <li>Cluster headache and variants</li> </ul>
3.7.14	<ul> <li>Distinguish between the clinical features of the following secondary chronic daily headache syndromes:</li> <li>Medication-related <ul> <li>Medication overuse headache</li> <li>Medication-induced side effects</li> </ul> </li> <li>Post-traumatic <ul> <li>Headache attributable to head injury</li> <li>Headache attributable to neck injury or whiplash</li> </ul> </li> <li>Disorders of intracranial pressure <ul> <li>Increased intracranial pressure</li> <li>Decreased intracranial pressure</li> <li>Tension-type headache</li> <li>Cervicogenic headache</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# HEADACHE - ICHD



# Functional Classification

- Things we treat
  - Most chronic headaches
    - Tension type headaches
    - Migraine
    - Post surgical
    - Medication overuse
  - Orofacial pain
    - Trigeminal neuralgia
    - Post herpetic neuralgia

- Headaches we refer (Red Flag)
  - Tumours
  - Altered ICP (esp Raised)
  - Sudden onset (SAH)
  - Raised ESR
  - Pregnancy related
  - Infection related
  - Hypertension related

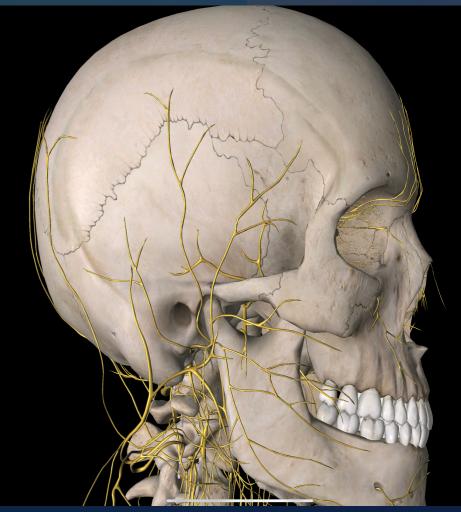


# Foundational Knowledge



# Foundational Knowledge

3.7.7	Describe the pathophysiology and clinical features of the following primary headache syndromes:
	<ul> <li>Migraine.</li> <li>Tension-type headache.</li> <li>Cluster headache.</li> </ul>
3.7.8	Describe the pathophysiology and clinical features of the following secondary headache syndromes:
	<ul> <li>Medication-related headache.</li> <li>Post-traumatic headache.</li> <li>Headache associated with disorders of intracranial pressure.</li> <li>Headache referred from the cervical spine.</li> <li>Headache associated with sinus pathology.</li> </ul>
3.7.9	Describe the pathophysiology and clinical features of:
	<ul> <li>Trigeminal neuralgia.</li> <li>Other cranial neuralgias.</li> <li>Post-herpetic neuralgia.</li> <li>"Burning mouth" syndrome.</li> <li>Temporomandibular joint disorders.</li> <li>Idiopathic facial pain.</li> </ul>
3.7.10	Critically discuss the concept of "atypical facial pain" and its implications for assessment and management.





# Assessment



## Management of Headaches

- General principles:
- Some of the most distressed patients in the pain clinic
- Is heavily medicalised by our current system
- Gets worse with aggressive opioid management
- Can still benefit from good allied health interventions



## Assessment

- History
  - Full history
    - Nature of pain, associated features, triggers
    - Medication use
  - Pain Diary
- Examination
- Investigation(s)



## Examination & Investigations

- Cranial nerve evaluation
- Cervical spine assessment
- Role of imaging
  - MRI
  - Bone scan
- Role of pathology



# Specific Diagnoses & Management



## Specific Conditions

- Migraine
- Tension Type Headache
- Orofacial pain
  - Trigeminal Autonomic Cephalgias
  - Trigeminal Neuralgia
  - Burning Mouth
  - Eagle Syndrome



# MIGRAINE



#### MIGRAINE

- One of the most common pain syndromes Lifetime prevalence 18%
  - Women 15-18%, Men 6-8%
  - Most are without aura (60-80%)
- Features disabling attacks lasting 4-72 hours
  - Usually with nausea, vomiting, photo/phonophobia
  - May be preceded by an aura
    - Unilateral, fully reversible visual/sensory or other CNS symptom
    - Cortical spreading



### Features of Migraine

- Nausea 90%
- Vomiting 30%
- Sensory hyperexcitability
- Autonomic symptoms common
  - Diarrhoea, polyuria, pallor sweating
- Localised edema and tenderness
- Concentration and mood changes



# Acute Treatment

- Aspirin often very effective (900-1000mg)
  - NSAIDS better than paracetamol
- Metoclopramide effective and standard care
- Triptans
  - SC and nasal more proven than oral
  - Chest pain is not cardiac
  - Probably ok in pregnancy
- Avoiding caffeine is preferable



### Prevention

- 50% reduction in attacks in success
- Betablockers use a lipid soluble agent (propranolol commonly)
  - Candesartan non inferior to beta blocker
- Ca ++ blockers
- Anticonvulsants
  - Topiramate
  - Valproate (care if pregnancy potential)



### OTHER OPTIONS FOR PREVENTION

- Botox
- Anti-CGRP antibodies
- Gabapentin
- TCA's
- Methysergide
- Magnesium
- Coenzyme Q



## ANTI CGRP DRUGS

- Multiple drugs have been designed for this including
  - Aimovig (Erenumab) Monoclonal antibody for CGRP receptor
  - Emgality (Galcanezumab) Monoclonal antibody for CRGP itself
- Stop most attacks in 25% of patients, moderate improvement in 50%
- Different side effect profile (eg constipation, alopecia)
  - Some concern regarding long term cardiovascular effects
- Raise interesting question as they don't cross BBB. (? glial effect)
- May help post traumatic headaches, cluster headache



# TENSION TYPE HEADACHE



#### TENSION TYPE HEADACHE

- Most common form of headache, classify on frequency
  - Infrequent < 12 per year</p>
  - Frequent 12- 180 days per year
  - Chronic TTH>180 days per year
- Chronic TTH often has lack of benefit with most treatments
  - Greater medication overuse
  - More disability
  - Higher personal and socioeconomic costs



#### 

- Bilateral pressing tightening pain of mild to moderate intensity
  - Episodes of short duration or continuous
  - No migraine features usually
  - Only I of vomiting photophobia phonophobia allowed
  - Mild nausea accepted
- Other organic disorders need excluding
- Diary (at least 4 weeks) for triggers and medication use.



#### EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Lifetime prevalence is 78%
  - Often short term
- 2-3 % of population had chronic TTH for years
  - Men equal women
  - Age 25-30 yrs at onset, peak prevalence 30-39 years
  - Decreases with age a little



## Other Features

- Examination findings:
  - Pericranial muscles are consistently more tender
  - Sensitisation of myofascial sensory afferents is consistently demonstrated
- Anxiety and catastrophising, avoidance are common.
- Depression also associated



### Management

- Education of patient
- Avoid triggers where identified
  - Caffeine
  - Stress
  - Irregular meals
  - Dehydration
  - Sleep disorders
  - Menstrual triggers (HRT)



#### Management

- Some benefit and limited evidence for with
  - Physical therapy
  - Psychological therapies
- Medical
- NSAIDS and/or panadol
- Risk of MOH
  - >I4 days per month
  - Triptans and combo's > 9 days per month



#### Prophylaxis

- Amitriptyline 75mg reduces headache index by 30% versus placebo
  - Should work in a week
  - Venlafaxine/ Mirtazepine are alternatives
- Multidisciplinary treatment
  - Improves episodic TTH by 50-75%
  - Improves chronic by 30-40 %



# TRIGEMINAL AUTONOMIC CEPHALGIAS



## TRIGEMINAL AUTONOMIC CEPHALGIAS

- Cluster headache
- Hemicrania Continua
- SUNCT (Short lasting Neuralgiform Headache with conjunctival injection and Tearing)

Note - can see similar symptoms in pituitary tumours.



# Cluster Headache



## Cluster Headache

- Diagnostic criteria at least five attacks within 10 days (max 8/day)
  - Severe or very severe unilateral orbital , supraorbital and/or temporal pain lasting 15 – 180 minutes if untreated.
  - Accompanied by conjunctival injection lacrimation, nasal congestion, forehead and facial sweating, ipsilateral eyelid oedema, Ipsilateral miosis and / or ptosis, restlesness and / or agitation
- Episodic lasting a week to a year, with pain free period > 1 month
- Chronic cluster if >1 year without remission or < 1 month pain free.



## Cluster Headache

- Affects about 0.1% of the general population
- Males are affected 4x more often than females.
- Usually starts between the ages of 20 and 50 years
  - Can occur at any age.
  - 20% have onset of between 10 and 19 years
- May run in some families with autosomal dominant inheritance
  - Having first degree relative with cluster increases risk 14–48 times
  - 8 to 10% of persons with CH have a positive family history



## Cluster Headache Treatment

- Verapamil medium to high dose mean 240mg/day max 960 mg per day
  - Takes weeks to work (1.7 weeks for episodic, 5 weeks chronic)
- Oxygen therapy 100-200%
- Triptans Sumitriptan 6mg (injection only), Zolmitraptan nasal 5mg
- CGRP inhibitors may have benefit
- Occipital and/or frontal nerve stimulation may help.



# Hemicrania



#### Hemicrania

- Unilateral headache for more than 3 months
  - Continua: Daily and continuous, Moderate to severe intensity
  - Paroxysmal: 5-30 minutes, multiple times per day
- Autonomic features
  - Conjunctival Injection/lacrimation
  - Nasal Congestion and Rhinorrhoea
  - Ptosis and/or Miosis
- Response to Indomethacin



#### Hemicrania

#### Other Features

- Stabbing headaches (superimposed over persistent headache)
- Migrainous features
  - Throbbing pain
  - Phono/photophobia
  - Nausea and Vomiting
- Compared with cluster headache Much less common, shorter but more frequent attacks, neck movement can precipitate, can affect whole head.



### EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Much less prevalent than cluster (1:50000 people vs 1:1000)
- More common in women 2:1
- Onset usually in adult life median onset in third decade of life



### Treatment

- Essentially universal response to indomethacin
  - 25-150 mg/day
  - Median dose 75mg/24 hours
- COX-2 inhibitors may also work if indomethacin not tolerated
- Lamotrigine 50-200mg /day also effective
- Topirimate also effective
- Stimulation may benefit.



# SUNCT's



# SUNCT

- Unilateral burning, stabbing, or electrical headaches mainly near the eye
  - Associated autonomic symptoms (lacrimation, ptosis, oedema, conjunctival injection, nasal blockage)
- Attacks are brief but frequent
  - Last from 5 seconds to 6 minutes
  - Up to 200x per day (average 60)
- Majority are male, age > 50



# SUNCT

- Does not respond to oxygen, indomethacin, sumatriptan
- Main options:
  - Lamotrigine
  - Topiramate
  - Gabapentin
- Short term treatment:
  - IV lignocaine, methylprednisolone



# Trigeminal Neuralgia



### Trigeminal Neuralgia

- Episodes of severe facial pain in distribution of trigeminal nerve
  - Electric shock or neuropathic pain
  - Typically minutes to hours in duration, but can be prolonged
  - Usually unilateral, can be bilateral occasionally
- Incidence 0.0125% of population per annum
- Usually after age 50, women more than men.



### Pathophysiology

- Cause is not fully understood
  - Probable loss of myelin of trigeminal nerve.
    - Either in Gasserian ganglion, or dorsal root.
  - Often due to compression by blood vessel
    - Aberrent branch of superior cerebellar artery
  - Can be caused by tumour, AV malformation
  - More common in multiple sclerosis (3-4% of patients)
- DDx above, also post herpetic neuralgia, TMJ disorder pain



### Treatment

#### Medication

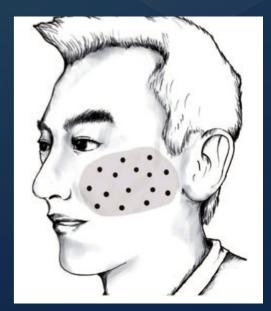
- Carbamazepine effective in most people (90%), but side effects preclude use in about a quarter of these
- Gabapentin/pregablin second line
- Lamotrigine, baclofen, amitripyline may be of benefit.
- Radiotherapy
- Procedural intervention
- Surgery



#### Procedural interventions

- Direct interventions of trigeminal ganglia are rarely done.
- Botox may be of value
  - Dose may be lower (20-50 units?)

The Use of Botulinum Toxin A in the Management of Trigeminal Neuralgia: a Systematic Literature Review Rubis A, Juodzbalys G. J Oral Maxillofac Res 2020 (Apr-Jun) | vol. 11 | No 2 | e2



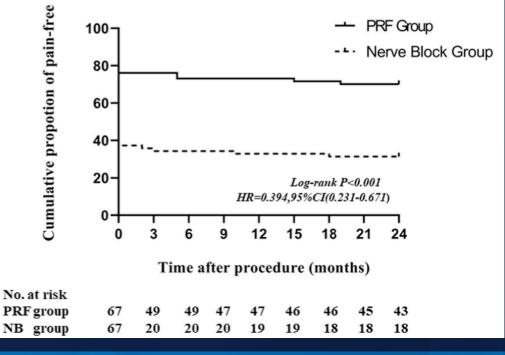


#### Pulsed RF?

- Potentially of benefit for intractable pain
- Fairly impressive results compared with a nerve block

Jia et al. The Journal of Headache and Pain (2023) 24:91 https://doi.org/10.1186/s10194-023-01629-7







# Post Herpetic Neuralgia



## PHN: EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Common condition, due to herpes zoster virus
  - 99% of adults > 40 years have serology positive for zoster
  - About I in 3 adults will have symptomatic zoster
    - 5-20% of these people will get post herpetic neuralgia
- Risk factors for pain:
  - Prodrome of symptoms prior to rash
  - Severe pain during acute phase
- Generally worse PHN in older people



#### Features

- Defining feature is a rash
  - Unilateral
  - Erythematous maculopapular rash
- Progresses to vesicles
  - Pustules form over 72h
- Scab falls off after 2-3 weeks





## Management

- Best is not to get it vaccination.
  - Reduced incidence of around 60% with vaccination
- Early Treatment
  - Antivirals (acyclovir, famciclovir, valacyclovir) within first 72 hours of diagnosis
- Later treatment
  - Medications
  - Other options



### MANAGEMENT - MEDICATIONS

#### First line

- Calcium channel  $\alpha 2-\delta$  ligands: Gabapentin, pregabalin
- Tricyclic antidepressants (Nortriptlyine, desipramine, amitriptyline)
- Topical agents (Lidocaine 5% patch)
- Second line
  - Opioids (Suggest atypical agents: Tapentadol, Tramadol)
  - Capsaicin (patch 8%, 0.075A% cream)
- Other vaccination



# Burning Mouth Syndrome



## Burning Mouth Syndrome

- Normal anatomy with pain over mouth/lips/tongue
  - Burning or tingling pain, usually bilateral
  - Affected by eating generally better, although worse with hot foods
  - Chronic pain, usually continuous, from waking up throughout day.
- Excluded if explained by another disease
- Prevalence 5 per 100 000 individuals.
- Most common in postmenopausal women (3-7x more likely in women)



#### Aetiology

- Primary BMS (50%) of cases have no identifiable cause.
- Oestrogen or progesterone deficit thought to be implicated.
- Autoimmune cause
  - 50% have abnormal ANA and RF (obviously not specific to BMS)
- Other associations (? Causal)
  - Chronic trauma (rubbing tongue against teeth or palate)
  - Depression / Anxiety



#### DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- Hypothyroidism
- Medications (ACEI, Protease inhibitors)
- T2DM / neuropathy
- Multiple myeloma
- Infection HIV, Candidiasis, HSV



### Management

- No good effective treatment
- Consider antidepressants, anxiolytics, anticonvulsants.
- Consider CBT, Reassurance.

Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2016 Nov; 2016(11): CD002779. Published online 2016 Nov 18.



# Eagle Syndrome



## Eagle Syndrome

- Rare syndrome due to elongation of styloid process or calcification of ligament
  - Sharp shooting pain in jaw, throat, base of tongue, usually unilateral
  - Pain from chewing/swallowing/turning neck.
    - Tinnitus
- Incidence is around 0.16% of population
- Surgical treatment styloidectomy, also medical or procedural
  - Can have vascular involvement of ICA



# Orofacial Pain Specific conditions

- Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Other Neuralgias
- Post herpetic neuralgia
- "Burning mouth" Syndrome
- Eagle Syndrome



#### Cervicogenic headache

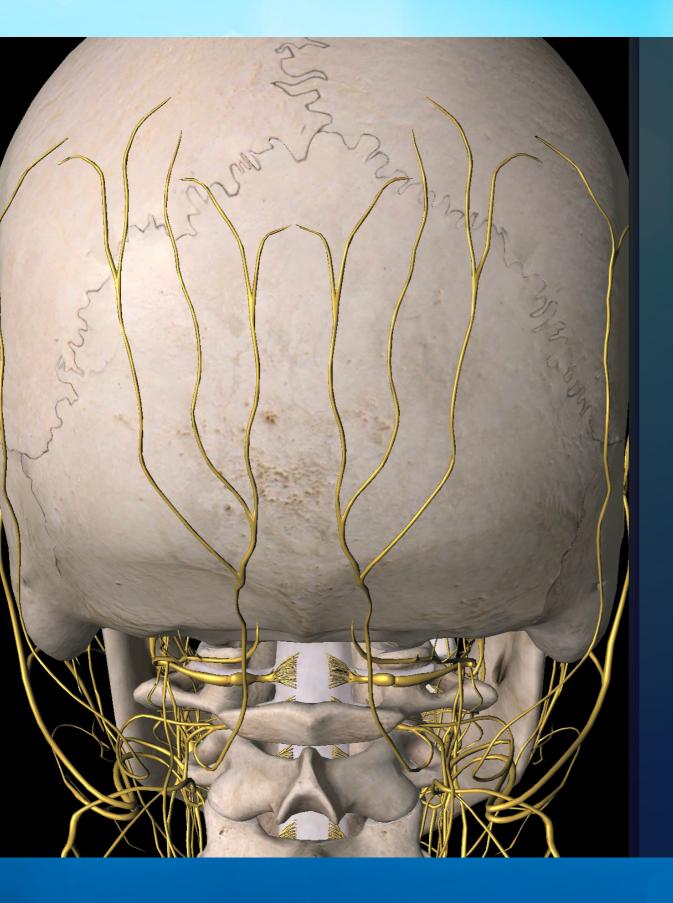
- Referred headache from cervical spine or neck soft tissues.
  - Worse with neck movement / limited neck movement.
  - Often seen following trauma / whiplash (often workplace/ vehicle)
- DDx Migraines, traumatic brain injury
- Most management is symptomatic / medical
- Can consider GON / cervical facet joint steroids.



#### PROCEDURES FOR HEADACHE

- Greater occipital nerve block
- Botox
- Cervical facet joint injections
- Neuromodulation





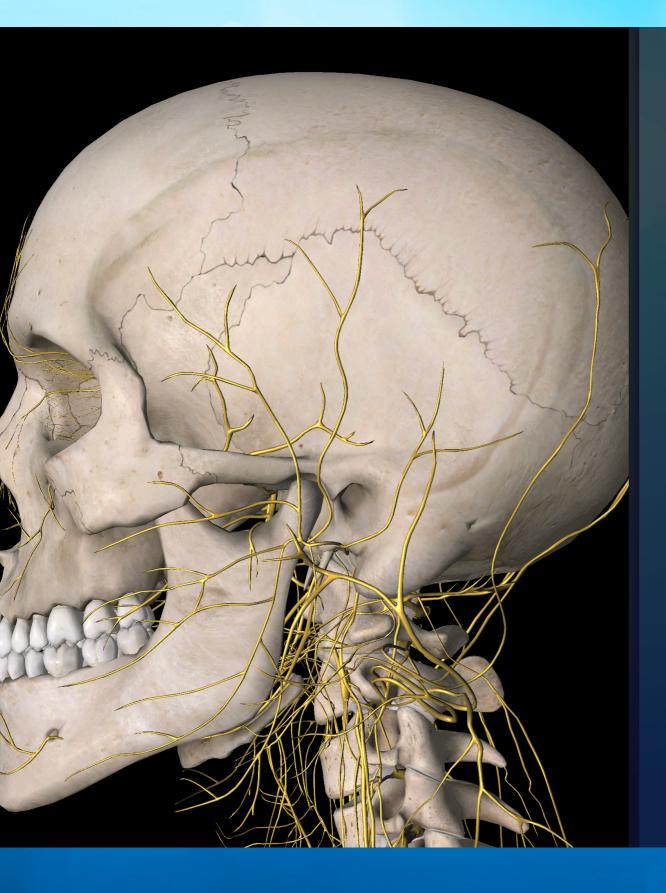
### Greater Occipital Nerve Blocks

Simple, low risk procedure.

Local anaesthetic + steroid, can also do pulsed RF

Can be done as field block, or with US or X-Ray guidance.



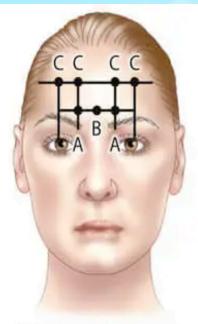


#### Scalp Innervation

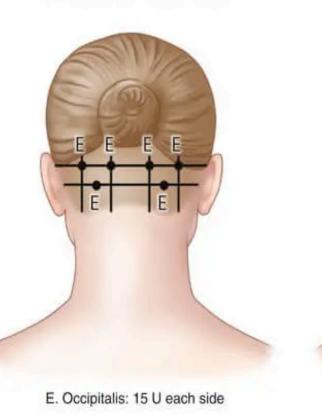
Temporal region is innervated by Greater auricular nerve (posterior to ear) and Auriculotemporal nerve (anterior to ear)

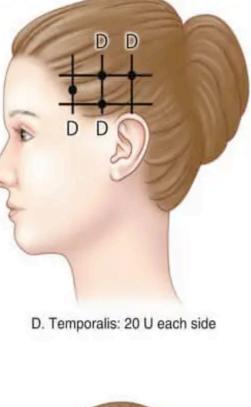
Can do blocks +/- Pulsed RF

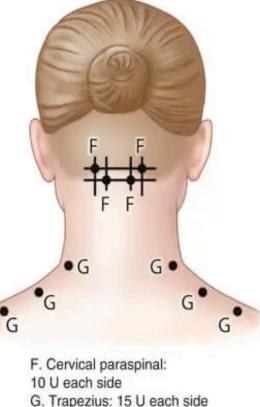




A. Corrugator: 5 U each side B. Procerus: 5 U (one site) C,. Frontalis: 10 U each side







#### Botox for Migraines

PBS limitation is for neurologists to prescribe

- Can still potentially do as day case
- May get some fund rebates
- Typically use 100 units





RHIZOTOMY Pulsed RF (non destructive) - Most evidence is for the DRG - Optimising settings. Eg: 42° 20ms 5Hz 240 seconds.



### Noninvasive neuromodulation

- Vagal nerve stimulation
  - Chronic / Episodic migraine
     64% pain relief, 40% pain
     free. Superior to sham
- TMS Only gets medicare in Australia for depression
  - 39% got pain relief (vs 22% with sham) 2.75 less headache days/mth

- TNS (Cefaly) 38% responder rate versus sham 12%.
- Peripheral Electrical Stimulation 50% reduction in pain in 64% of treated patients.





## NEUROMODULATION FOR HEADACHE

#### Invasive neuromodulation

Table IV Efficacy of different neuromodulatory approaches on various primary headaches						
Approach	ссн	Other TACs	MIG	ON	cTTH	Others
Occipital nerve stimulation	++	+	+ (CM)	+	?	(+) (ICHD-II 13.12, NDPH)
Hypothalamic deep brain stimulation	++	+	?	?	?	- (PIFP), + (sTN)
Sphenopalatine ganglion stimulation	+	?	(+) EM	?	?	?
High cervical spinal cord stimulation	(+)	?	?	?	?	?
Vagal nerve stimulation	(+)	?	(+) (CM + EM)	?	(+)	(+) (CDH)

Abbreviations and symbols: ++ sound evidence; + moderate evidence; (+) only anecdotal reports or ambiguous results; ?: no studies found; -, lack of efficacy; CCH, chronic cluster headache; CDH, chronic daily headache; CM, chronic migraine; cTTH, chronic tension-type headache; EM, episodic migraine; ICHD-II 13.12, constant pain caused by compression, irritation, or distortion of cranial nerves or upper cervical roots by structural lesions; MIG, migraine; NDPH, new daily persistent headache; PIFP, persistent idiopathic facial pain; ON, occipital neuralgia; sTN, symptomatic trigeminal neuralgia affecting the ophthalmic division; TAC, trigemino-autonomic cephalalgia.



### SUMMARY

- Classification(s)
- Foundational Knowledge
- Assessment
- Specific Diagnoses and Treatments
  - Headache
  - Orofacial pain
  - Cervicogenic pain
- Interventions