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Dawn A. Marcus, Philip A. Bain

# Practical Assessment and Treatment of the Patient with Headaches in the Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinic

- **First handbook available to exclusively address the issue of headache treatment in the acute care setting**
- **Practical, easy to use handbook that allows ER and UCC providers to treat patients with headache efficiently and effectively with protocols and strategies that can be used right away**
- **Of value to primary care providers in helping reduce the number of ER and UCC visits**

Migraine is an extremely common condition affecting 28 million Americans. Fully 1 in every 6 adult women suffers from this malady. Patients with migraine are frequently seen in the Emergency Room and Urgent Care Clinic for acute treatment of their headaches. Headache generally accounts for nearly 3 % of all ER visits, resulting in almost 3.5 million visits annually. There currently are no widely used guidelines for the treatment of patients with headache in the ER or UCC, and reducing the number of CT scans remains a key goal for administrators in many ER or urgent care settings. In one study, 35 drugs, alone or in combination, were used to treat migraine. The most common medication class used was narcotics, which were used in 25% of the visits. The next two most commonly used classes were antiemetics and NSAIDs. Only 5% of patients seen for headache received headache-specific medications during their visit. ER and Urgent Care physicians generally have little or no formal training in treating these patients.

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