



**5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Academy of Neurology**

**Oslo, Norway, June 29 - July 2, 2019**

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**Teaching Course 7**

**Acute headache treatment (Level 1)**

**Red flags and the role of investigations**

**Andreas Gantenbein**  
Bad Zurzach, Switzerland

**Email:** [a.gantenbein@rehaclinic.ch](mailto:a.gantenbein@rehaclinic.ch)



**RehaClinic**  
Unternehmensgruppe für  
Rehabilitation und Prävention



Schweizerische Kopfwegesellschaft  
Société suisse pour l'étude des céphalées  
Società svizzera per lo studio delle cefalee  
Societad svizra per il studi del mal il tgau  
Swiss Headache Society



**University of  
Zurich**<sup>UZH</sup>

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**Teaching Course 7**

🕒 15:00 - 18:15

📍 Sor Norge


Acute headache treatment (Level 1)

# Red Flags and the Role of Investigations

PD Dr. med. Andreas R. Gantenbein  
Chief Physician Neurology RehaClinic  
[a.gantenbein@rehaclinic.ch](mailto:a.gantenbein@rehaclinic.ch)




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Acute headache treatment (Level 1)

**Chairperson**  
Anish Bahra, London, United Kingdom

Presentations

**Management in the emergency room**  
Anne Donnet, Marseille, France

**Red flags and the role of investigations**  
Andreas Gantenbein, Bad Zurzach, Switzerland


**Treatment of acute attacks**  
Anish Bahra, London, United Kingdom

**Self-management of acute headaches**  
Charly Gaul, Königstein, Germany


In this TC, participants will learn how to treat acute attacks according to evidence and guidelines. This refers first to the emergency room, where sudden appropriate therapy is necessary. Very important is the correct strategy, when further investigations such as neuroimaging or neurophysiology are needed and when to avoid these investigations. Then, the different drug classes which are helpful in acute attack treatment will be reviewed. Finally, self-management plays an important role. Patients can be advised how to self-treat their headache attacks according to evidence. This TC is for clinicians and trainees who are not specialized in headache but are looking for more advice how to treat and advice patients in the outpatient clinic and in the emergency room.

# Agenda

Cases  
Quiz



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<https://www.ichd-3.org/>

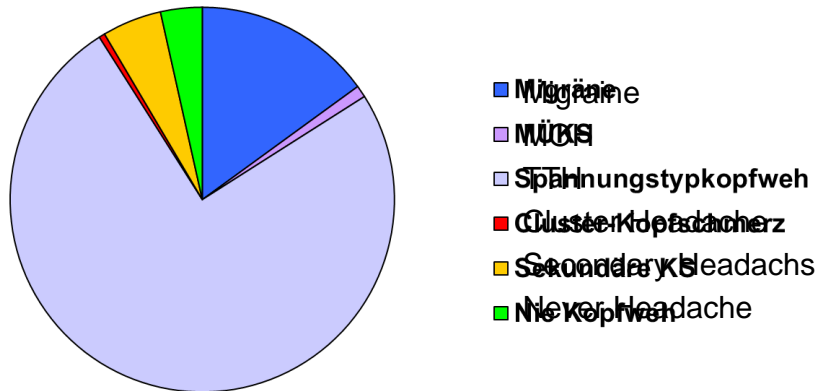
primary vs. secondary

14 groups

> 200 different headache diagnoses

IHS. Cephalalgia 2018

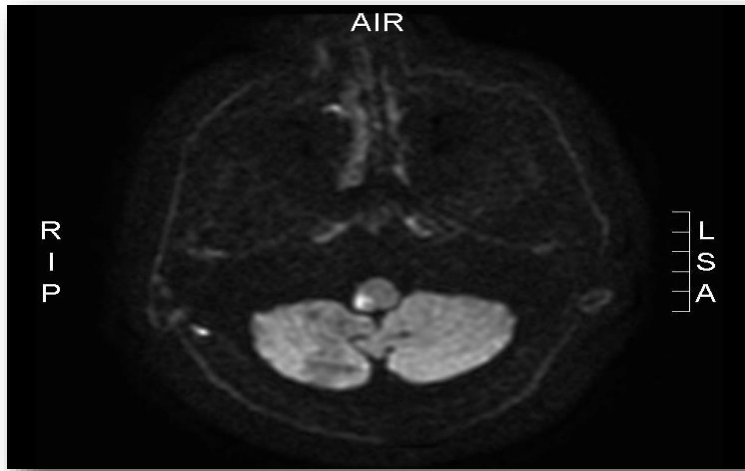
## Estimated Headache Prevalence in the Population



## Case I

**A.A. 1942**

**JL** Selbstzuweisung. Der Patient berichtet über plötzlich aufgetretene, mittelstarke, drückende, im Verlauf etwas zunehmende Kopfschmerzen (ohne Ausstrahlung, ohne Begleiterscheinungen) rechts temporal ab 08:30 Uhr heute morgen (23.03.2010), die einige Minuten angehalten hätten. Dann gegen 08:45 Uhr erneute Kopfschmerzen nosologisch ähnlich und ebenfalls nach einigen Minuten regredient. Um 09:00 Uhr seien dann plötzlich (im Bereich von Sekunde) stärkste (VAS 10/10) drückende Kopfschmerzen temporal rechts aufgetreten, mit Ausstrahlung nach rechts okzipital. Gleichzeitig habe der Patient einen Schweißausbruch bekommen und einen ungerichteten Schwindel verspürt, die Augen hätten getränt. Ausserdem hätte er im Verlauf (nach ca. 15 min) ein Kribbel- und Taubheitsgefühl um den rechten Mundwinkel und in den rechten Fingerspitzen verspürt, welche sich über 3-4 Minuten nach proximal ausgebreitet habe und er habe bemerkt, dass er mit der rechten Hand weniger fest habe zudrücken können. Die Symptomatik habe insgesamt etwa 1 Stunde angehalten und sei dann (bis auf ein leichtes Kribbeln um den rechten Mundwinkel) komplett regredient gewesen. Früher habe der Patient noch nie Kopfschmerzen gehabt.



cMRI (DWI)

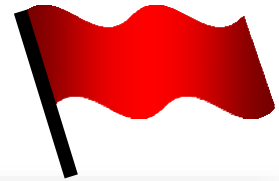
## Evolution of SNOOP

<b>S</b> ystemic Symptoms:	fever, weight loss
<b>N</b> eurologic Symptoms:	pathological findings
<b>O</b> nset, <i>Ongoing</i> :	sudden onset Valsalva, manipulation ongoing
<b>O</b> lder:	begin > age 50
<b>P</b> revious, <i>Postural</i> :	different from previous postural changes



*adapted from* Dodick DW. Adv Stud Med 2003

# SNNOOP10

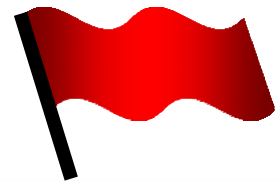


**Table 1** SNNOOP10 list of red and orange flags

Sign or symptom	Related secondary headaches (most relevant ICHD-3b categories)
1 Systemic symptoms including fever	Headache attributed to infection or nonvascular intracranial disorders, carcinoid or pheochromocytoma
2 Neoplasm in history	Neoplasms of the brain; metastasis
3 Neurologic deficit or dysfunction (including decreased consciousness)	Headaches attributed to vascular, nonvascular intracranial disorders; brain abscess and other infections
4 Onset of headache is sudden or abrupt	Subarachnoid hemorrhage and other headaches attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorders
5 Older age (after 50 years)	Giant cell arteritis and other headache attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorders; neoplasms and other nonvascular intracranial disorders
6 Pattern change or recent onset of headache	Neoplasms, headaches attributed to vascular, nonvascular intracranial disorders
7 Positional headache	Intracranial hypertension or hypotension

Do TP et al. Neurology 2019

# SNNOOP10



8 Precipitated by sneezing, coughing, or exercise	Posterior fossa malformations; Chiari malformation
9 Papilledema	Neoplasms and other nonvascular intracranial disorders; intracranial hypertension
10 Progressive headache and atypical presentations	Neoplasms and other nonvascular intracranial disorders
11 Pregnancy or puerperium	Headaches attributed to cranial or cervical vascular disorders; postdural puncture headache; hypertension-related disorders (e.g., preeclampsia); cerebral sinus thrombosis; hypothyroidism; anemia; diabetes
12 Painful eye with autonomic features	Pathology in posterior fossa, pituitary region, or cavernous sinus; Tolosa-Hunt syndrome; ophthalmic causes
13 Posttraumatic onset of headache	Acute and chronic posttraumatic headache; subdural hematoma and other headache attributed to vascular disorders
14 Pathology of the immune system such as HIV	Opportunistic infections
15 Painkiller overuse or new drug at onset of headache	Medication overuse headache; drug incompatibility

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## Case II

### Pupil, age 17

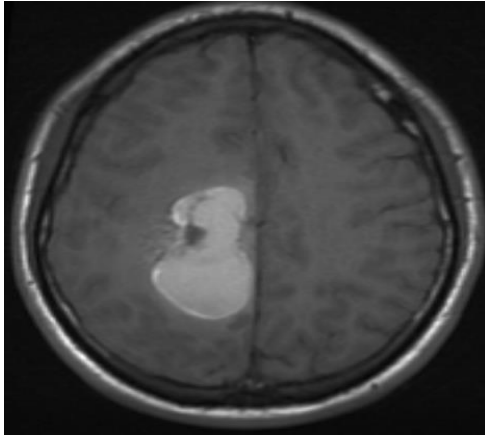
- Weakness in the left arm, spreading towards shoulder over 30 min
- After 1 hour severe pulsating headache on the right accompanied by nausea
- Mild photo- and phonophobia

## Case II

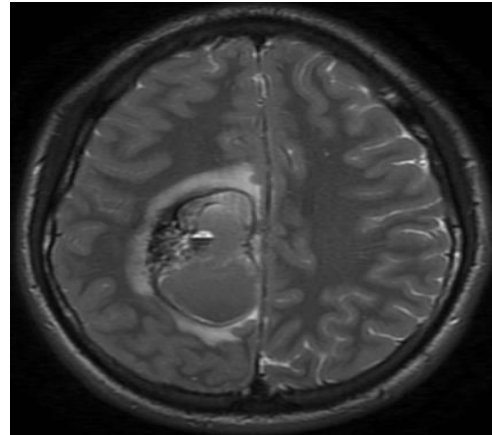
### Neurological Examination

- Discrete arm drop left
- Hypoaesthesia arm left
- Symmetric reflexes, negative Babinski sign

## cMRI



cMRI (T1)



(T2)

histology: cavernous haemangioma

## Transient neurological symptoms

	<u>ischaemic</u>	<u>epileptic</u>	<u>migraine aura</u>
<b>Start</b>	sudden	sudden	gradually
<b>Progression</b>	no	rapid	slowly
<b>Symptoms</b>	negative	positive	both
<b>Territory</b>	vascular	cortical	cortical
<b>Duration</b>	short	short	longer





## Case III

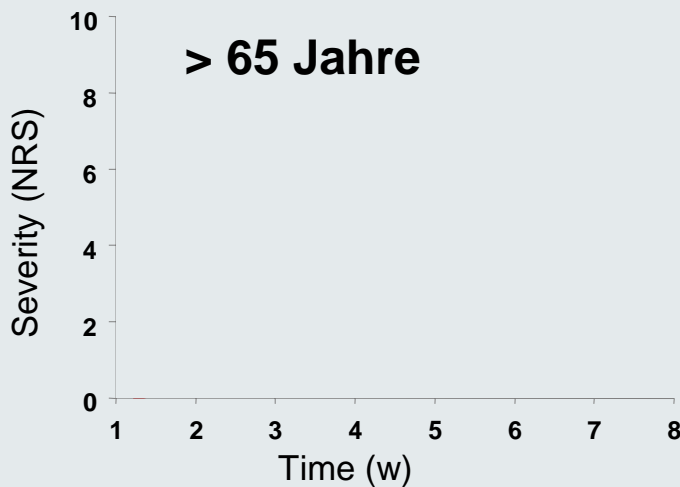
Carpenter, age 62

- Sleep consultation
- Side-locked headache
  - ongoing 2 months
  - no accompanying symptoms
  - Painkillers do not help

## Giant cell arteritis

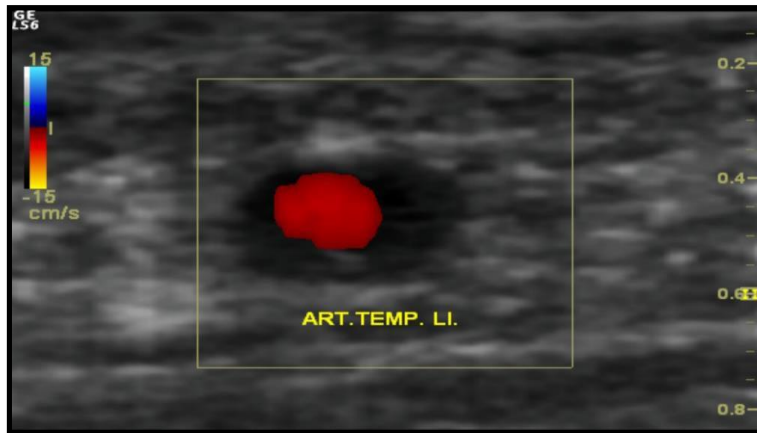
ICHD-3 6.4.1

**> 65 Jahre**



- frontal, temporal
- progressive
- A. temporalis pressure sensitive
- BSR, CRP, WBC

## Sonography („Halo“)



Courtesy E.Hammer/Th. Weber

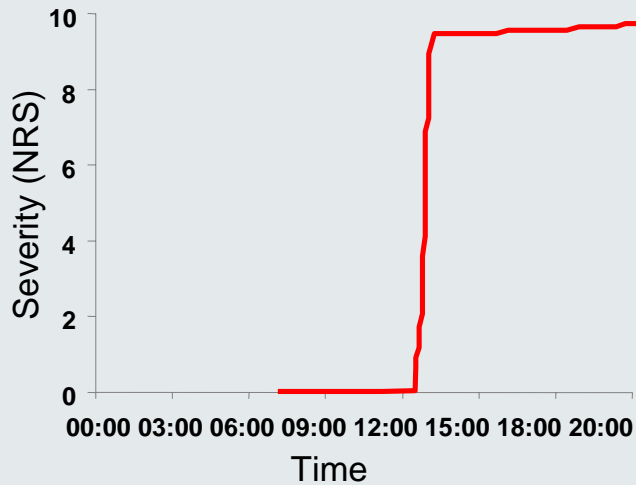
## Case IV

Asylum seeker, age 38

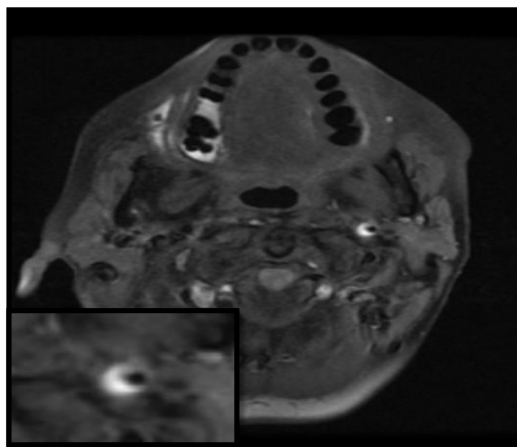
- Ongoing headache for 10 days
  - several consultations on ER
  - diffuse with focus on the right neck
  - neurological examination and cranial CAT normal
  - painkillers do not help

# Vertebral Artery Dissection

## ICHD-3 6.5.1



- Horner syndrome
- Pulsatile Tinnitus



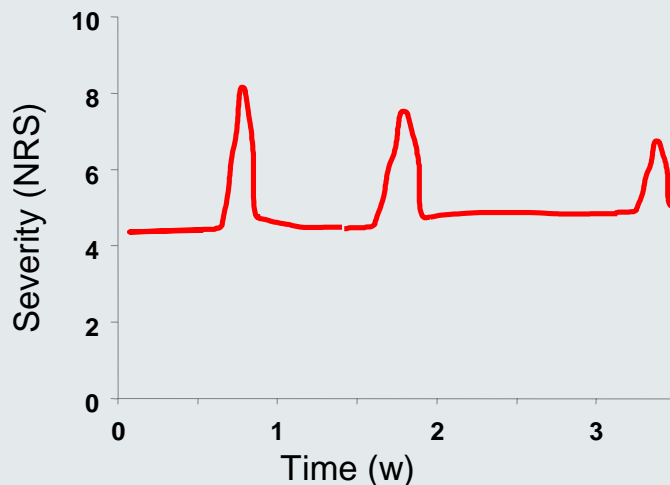
nMRI (T2 FATSAT)

## Case V

Accountant, age 35

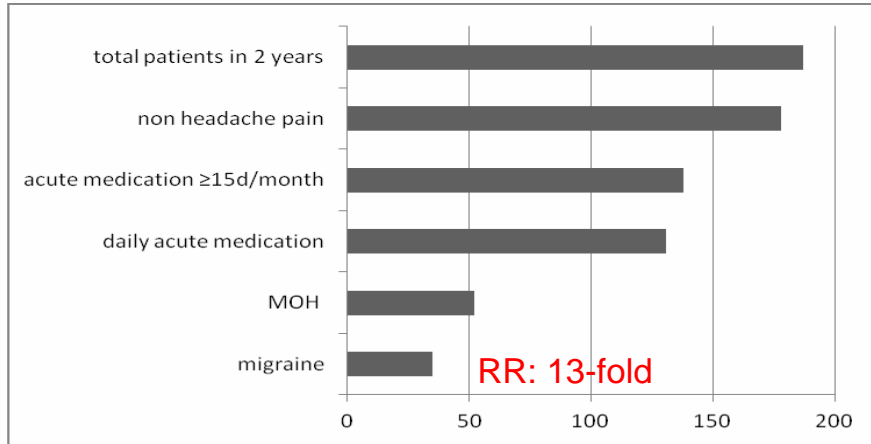
- Chronic armpain after trauma
  - daily painkillers
- Ongoing headache for 3 months
  - sometimes vomiting
  - more severe than arm pain
  - had to stop working

## Medication Overuse Headache (MOH) ICHD-3 8.2



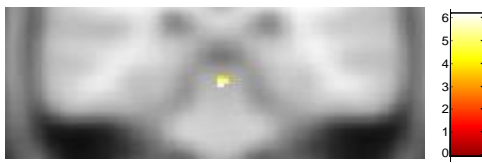
- almost daily
- dull-pressing
- sometimes migrainous
- painkillers >10 days
- Prevalence 1%

## MOH in chronic pain patients

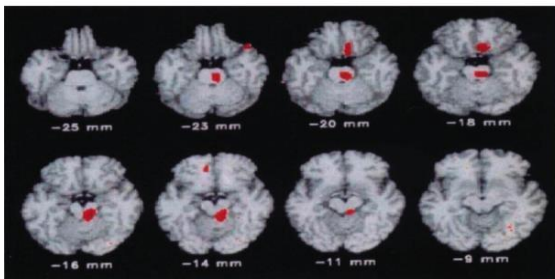
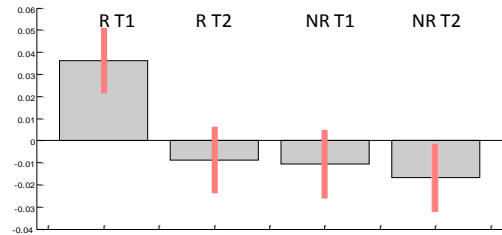


Wanner et al. J Headache and Pain 2013

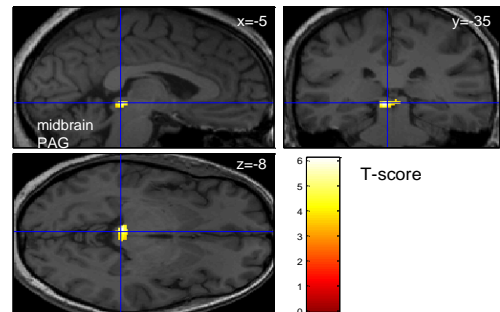
## Morphometric changes in MOH



Riederer et al. WJBP 2012.



Weiller et al. Nature Medicine 1995.

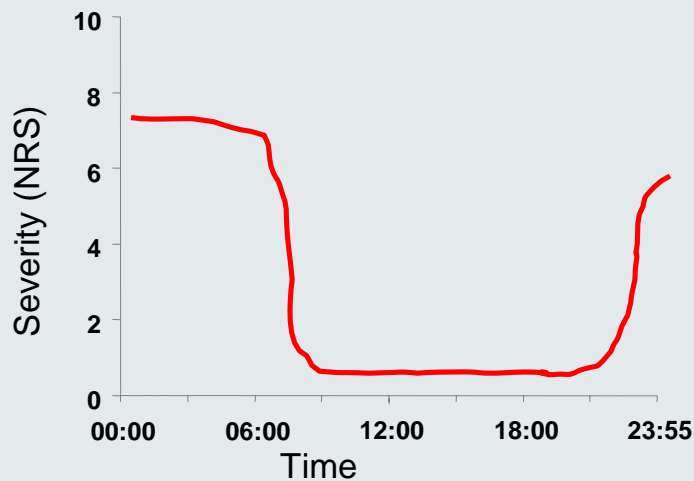


Riederer et al. J Neurosci 2013.

## Diagnostic ...

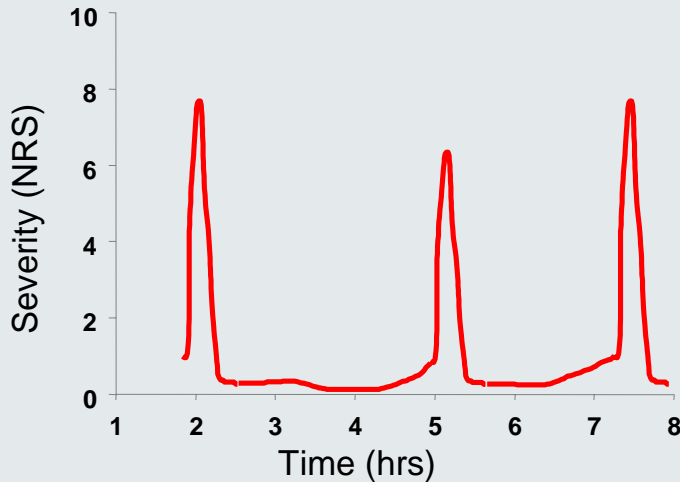


## Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension ICHD-3 7.1



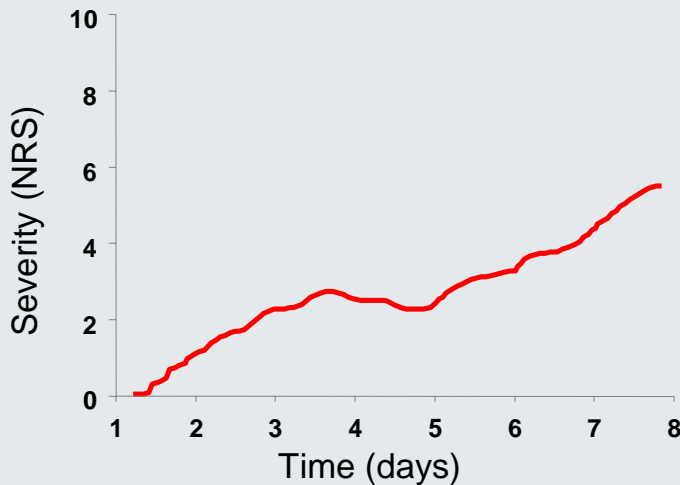
- bilateral
- postural, Valsalva
- diplopia (VI)
- overweight
- acne

## Acute Rhinosinusitis ICHD-3 11.5.1



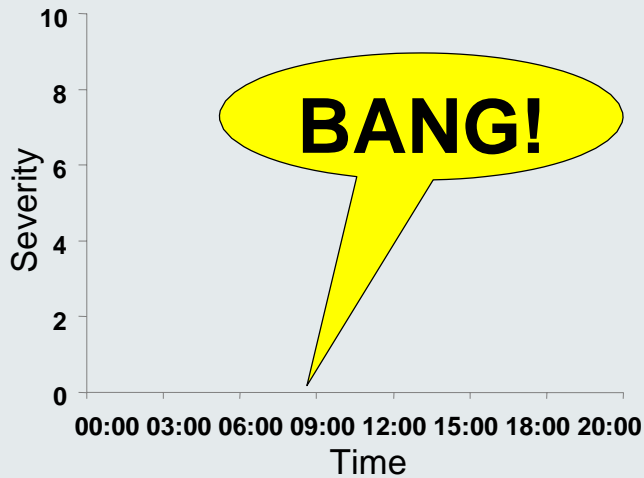
- pulsating
- unilateral
- vomiting
- "kinesiophobia"
- fever, CRP

## Cerebral Venous Thrombosis ICHD-3 6.6.1



- bilateral
- progressing
- seizures
- somnolence

# Exploding head syndrome

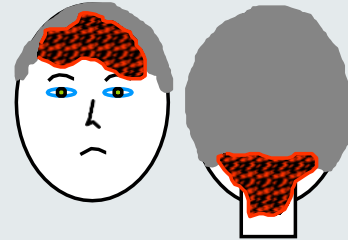
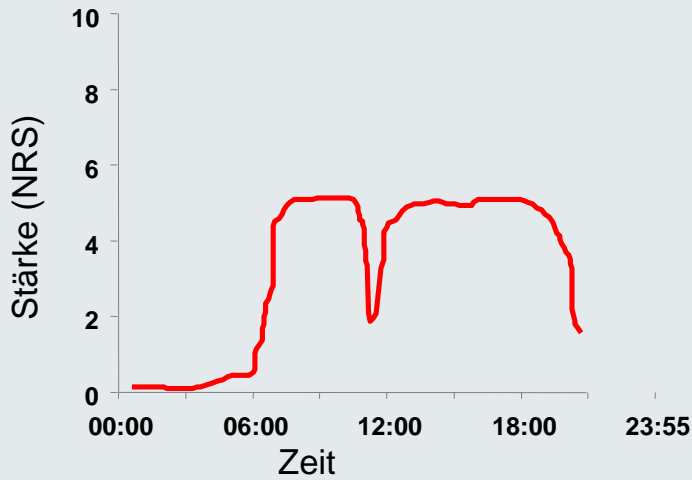


- age >50
- no pain
- several times a night

1	2
Cluster, SUNCT/A Hypnic Headache Paroxysmal Hemicrania	Hemicrania Continua CDH/MOH NDPH, CTTH
SAH Thunderclap Headache „Exploding Head S.“	Migraine OSAS IIH

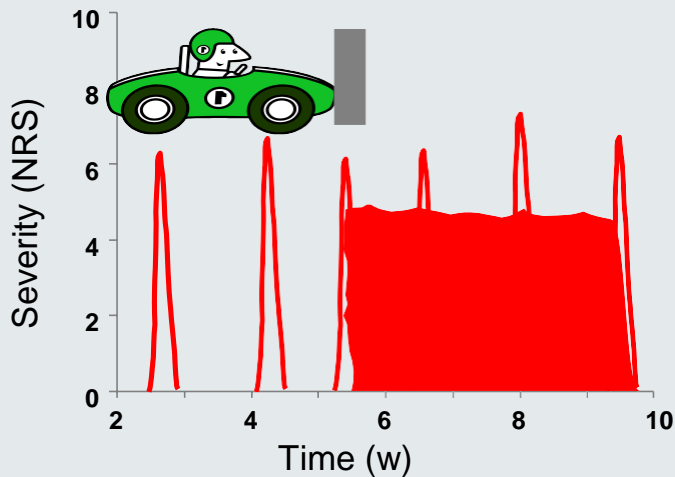


## Low CSF pressure headache ICHD-3 7.2



- bilateral
- postural
- 'whooshing'
- post LP
- minor trauma

## Posttraumatic Headache ICHD-3 5. ff



- MOH!!



**Thank you**

[a.gantenbein@rehaclinic.ch](mailto:a.gantenbein@rehaclinic.ch)

*sculptures Dr. Hansruedi Isler, M.D.*