

5.1 Acute post-traumatic headache

5.1.1 Acute post-traumatic headache attributed to moderate or severe head injury

Diagnostic criteria:

- A. Headache, no typical characteristics known, fulfilling criteria C and D
- B. Head trauma with at least one of the following:
 - 1. loss of consciousness for >30 minutes
 - 2. Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) <13
 - 3. post-traumatic amnesia for >48 hours
 - 4. imaging demonstration of a traumatic brain lesion (cerebral haematoma, intracerebral and/or subarachnoid haemorrhage, brain contusion and/or skull fracture)
- C. Headache develops within 7 days after head trauma or after regaining consciousness following head trauma
- D. One or other of the following:
 - 1. headache resolves within 3 months after head trauma
 - 2. headache persists but 3 months have not yet passed since head trauma

5.1.2 Acute post-traumatic headache attributed to mild head injury

Diagnostic criteria:

- A. Headache, no typical characteristics known, fulfilling criteria C and D
- B. Head trauma with all the following:
 - 1. either no loss of consciousness, or loss of consciousness of <30 minutes' duration
 - 2. Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) \geq 13
 - 3. symptoms and/or signs diagnostic of concussion
- C. Headache develops within 7 days after head trauma
- D. One or other of the following:
 - 1. headache resolves within 3 months after head trauma
 - 2. headache persists but 3 months have not yet passed since head trauma

Comment:

Mild head injury may give rise to a symptom complex of cognitive, behavioral and consciousness abnormalities and a GCS of \geq 13. It can occur with or without abnormalities in the neurological examination, neuroimaging (CT scan, MRI), EEG, evoked potentials, CSF examination, vestibular function tests and neuropsychological testing. There is no evidence that an abnormality in any of these changes the prognosis or contributes to treatment. These studies should not be considered routine for patients with ongoing post-traumatic headache. They may be considered on a case-by-case basis, or for research purposes.