

Overview on headache in elderly

Headache is the most common neurologic symptom. Its prevalence peaks around 40 years of age and declines thereafter. Diagnosing and treating headache disorders can be challenging in the elderly population (arbitrarily defined as individuals aged 65 and older), as in this particular group of patients, although primary headaches are still more common, new onset headaches are more likely to have serious etiologies. Furthermore, the clinical presentation may be different compared to younger adults. Various imaging and laboratory evaluations are indicated in the presence of any “red flag” or symptoms. Finally, management requires careful assessment for comorbid conditions, polypharmacy, reduced medication tolerance and potential medication overuse.

In this seminar we will discuss the epidemiology, assessment, clinical features and treatment of headache within this population.