

Migraine Complications: Update and Review of Literature

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Abstract:

In this review, we will discuss the diagnostic criteria, pathophysiology, and possible treatments of the complications of migraine headache as identified by the International Classification of Headache Disorders version 3.

Migraine with aura may be associated with the onset of rare, but significantly disabling neurological symptoms. These complications may have same pathophysiological mechanisms. This review provides an overview of the associated complications that stem from migraine with or without aura. The neurological symptoms experienced by the patient correspond to a wave of altered brain activity known as cortical spreading depression.

The complications of migraine that stem from migraine aura are rarely encountered in clinical situation; however, they can be disabling for many patients. As these conditions are encountered, complete diagnostic evaluation is mandatory. In some cases, it may be difficult to find a consistently reliable treatment option for these patients.

Key words: status migrainosus, migraine with aura, persistent aura without infarction, migrainous infarction, migraine aura-triggered seizure