

## **Headaches Cheat Sheet**

by Siffi (Siffi) via cheatography.com/122609/cs/22840/

Recurrent Headaches	
Migraine	
Trigeminal autonomic Cephalgia	
Tension Type	

Daily/Constant Headaches	
Chronic	New
Medication overuse	SAH
Hemicrania Contiua	Meningitis
Tumour	Raised ICP
	Low Pressure HA
	Giant Cell Arteritis

Structures that cause HA
Neck
Eyes
Teeth
TMJ

Difference between migraine + TIA		
Migraine	TIA	
Multiple previous episodes	New Event	
Gradual onset	Sudden Onset	
Short duration	Lasts 24 hours	
Progression + regression pattern	No increasing/decreasing symptoms	

Examination - MSK
Postural abnormalities:
Flattened tx spine
Forward Head
Increased Lordosis
Kyphosis/scoliosis
Rotated Pelvis
Upper Cervical Pain Sign
Tenderness over C2/C3/Reproduction of HA = Cervicogenic

Examination - Serious HA
Gait
Stance
Posture
Temperature
Blood Pressure
General Obs
CN Screening:
Facial symmetry/drooping
Ptosis
Size & Shape of Pupils
Active facial movements
Pupillary light reaction & Accommodation
Ocular position + EOM
Fundoscopy
TMJ Exam
Otoscopy
Cx Spine Screening
Palpation of: Lymph nodes, scalp tenderness, temporal arteries and sinuses
Upper & Lower Limb reflexes (Plantar Response)
Upper and Lower Limb Strength Testing
Nuchal Rigidity (Kernig's + Brudzinksis)

Red/Orange Flag	s	
Orange Flags	Red Flags	Related HA
Systemic Symptoms + Fever	Neoplasm in history	Neoplasms + metastasis
	Neurological deficit	Intracranial disorders
	Onset - Sudden/Severe	SAH/vascular
	>50 years old	Neoplasms,GCA, other vascular disorders
	Pattern change/recent onset	Neoplasms/vascular/no- nvascular disorders
	Positional HA	Intracranial Hyper/hyp- otension
	Precipitated by Valsalva movements	Posterior fossa malfor- mations



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Red/Orange Flags (co	ont)
Papilloedema	Intracranial hypertension
Progressive HA	Neoplasms/nonvascular
Pregnancy	Preeclampsia/cerebral sinus thrombosis/h- ypothyroidism, anaemia, diabetes
Painful eye + Autonomic features	Posterior fossa pathology, pituitary/cavernous sinus
HA after trauma	Subdural Haematoma + vascular HA
Pathology of immune system	Opportunistic infections
Medication overuse	Drug incompatibility, overuse HA
Systemic Symptoms	- Infection/nonvascular intracranial disorders

Further Investigations		
FBC	Infection + anaemia	
ESR/CRP	Temporal artertis/infection/inflammatory, malignancy, multiple myeloma	
MRI		
СТ		

Guidelines for CT & MRI
Unexplained/Abnormal Vital Signs
Decreased Alertness/Cognition
Onset of HA with exertion
S&S of increased intracranial Pressure
HA worsens under observation
Nuchal Rigidity
Focal Neuro Signs
First Severe HA in patient >50y
Sudden Onset of "worst HA ever"

Referrals		
Thunderclap	REFER IMMEDIATELY TO HOSPITAL - 999	
CNS infection	REFER IMMEDIATELY TO HOSPITAL	
Raised ICP	Refer <b>Urgently</b> for specialist assessment (A&E/urgent same day GP)	
Trigeminal autonomic Cephalgia	Refer for specialist assessment - GP	
Giant Cell Arteritis	Refer <b>urgently</b> for specialist assessment (urgent/same day GP)	
Intracranial Hypotension	Refer for specialist assessment - GP	
Complicated Migraine		
Uncertain Diagnosis		
Headaches increasing in frequency		
Psychological factors		
Chronic, daily HA - needs multidisciplinary care		
Unresponsive to conservative care		

Referral Patterns		
Type of Headache	Site	Radiation
Migraine	temporofrontal region - UNILATERAL	Retro-orbital + occipital
Cluster	Over/above one eye	Frontal + Temporal Regions
Cervic- ogenic	Occipital Region	Parietal region - unilateral, vertex/skull, behind the eye
Temporal arteritis	Forehead & Temporal	Down side of head
Tension	frontal, over forehead & temples	occipital



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