

# Pediatric vs. Adult: Are Kids Really Different and What Should We Do About It

Andrew D. Hershey, MD, PhD, FAAN, FAHS  
Endowed Chair and Director of Neurology  
Director, Headache Center  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology  
University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Disclosures

Support – grants, contracts, honoraria  
NIH, MRF, CHRF research foundation, Amgen, Curelator, Theranica  
NIH – Advisory Board, Common Data Elements; HEAL  
Migraine Research Foundation – Advisory Board  
Assoc Ed – Headache, Cephalalgia, The Journal of Headache Pain  
Advisory Board – Alder/Lundbeck, Amgen, Biohaven, Curelator,  
Depomed, Dr. Reddy, Impax, Lilly, Teva, Upsher-Smith



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Objectives

- Explain challenges associated with evaluation and treatment of pediatric/adolescent migraine patients
- Describe how pediatric/adolescent patients present with migraine
- Gain an understanding of the unique design for pediatric/adolescent migraine clinical trials



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Evaluation and Treatment Challenges

- Development of the Brain
- Age appropriate assessments

---

UNIVERSITY OF  
CINCINNATI

Children's  
HOSPITAL OF  
CINCINNATI

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

# Developing Brain

Figure 3. Age-related changes in brain activation. The figure shows the results of a series of analyses that examined the relationship between age and brain activation. The results show that brain activation increases with age, and that the pattern of activation changes as the brain develops.

University of Cincinnati

Gogtay et al, PNAS 2004

Children's Hospital Cincinnati



# Developing Brain

The graph illustrates the timeline of human brain development. The x-axis represents age, from Conception to Death, with markers for Months, Years, and Decades. The y-axis represents the level of various brain components. Key milestones include:

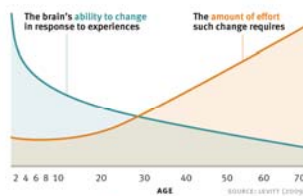
- (18-24 prenatal days):** Cell migration (6-24 prenatal weeks).
- Synaptogenesis:** A period of rapid synapse formation, peaking around 2 months to 18 years.
- Adult levels of synapses:** A plateau reached after synaptogenesis.
- Experience-dependent synapse formation:** A period of synapse refinement, peaking around 2 months to 18 years.
- Neurogenesis in the hippocampus:** A period of new neuron formation, peaking around 2 months to 18 years.

Other labels on the graph include: (18-24 prenatal days), Cell migration (6-24 prenatal weeks), Synaptogenesis (2 months to 18 years), Adult levels of synapses, Experience-dependent synapse formation, and Neurogenesis in the hippocampus.

Thompson and Nelson, Am. Psychol 2007 & Grantham-McGregor et al., Lancet 2007



## Developing Brain - Plasticity



Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University  
www.developingchild.harvard.edu



## Periodic Syndromes/Episodic Syndromes

### Migraine and Migrainous Variants in Pediatric Patients

Arthur L. Pressley, MD\*

Seminars in Pediatric Neurology, 1976

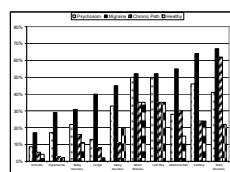
Children suffer from a number of migraine variants which occasionally pose difficult problems with regard to diagnosis. Many have been mistaken for epilepsy or structural brain disease. The most common of these variants is a "recurrent syndrome" in which children suffer from recurrent abdominal pain with or without nausea and vomiting, cyclic vomiting, associated fever, and autonomic symptoms such as pallor and sweating as well as chest pains and leg cramps. Table 2 com-

Table 2. A Comparison of Findings in Classical and Common Migraine in Children with the Recurrent Abdominal Syndrome\*

	MIGRAINE	ABDOMINAL SYNDROME
Sex	~40% male	~50% male
Age	100%	62% (0-80%)
Duration	89 (15.4-12.3%)	15.1% (0-30%)
Paroxysmal electroencephalogram	<10%	23.2% (7-36%)
Family history	2-3%	10% (0-30%)
Nausea	72% (44-87%)	22.1% (0-66%)



## Periodic Syndromes/Episodic Syndromes

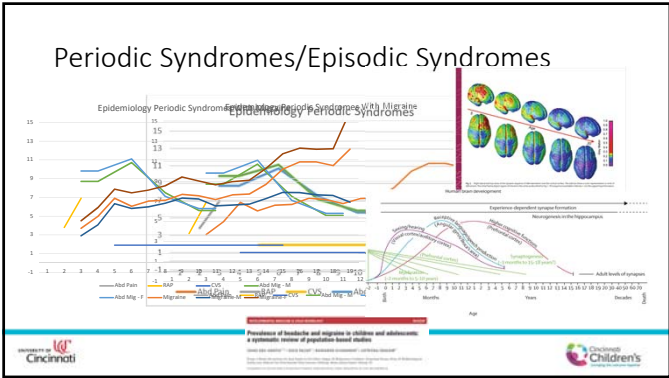


Symptom	Periodic Syndrome	Epilepsy	Chronic Pain	Healthy
Vomiting	40%	64%	24%	24%
Abdominal Pain	28	55	30	15
Motion Sickness	50	52	35	35
Limb Pain	50	52	35	35
Vertigo	13	40	8.1	2.2
Hypothermia	17	29	2.7	2.2
Torticollis	8.7	17	5.4	4.3
Sleep Disorders	41	67	62	22
Eating disorders (Cyclo)	33	45	11	20
Eating disorders (Cyclo)	22	31	16	11



Lanzi et al, Ital. J. Neurol. Sci., 1997





---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Age appropriate assessments

- Patient is the child, not the parent
  - Parent likely to have headaches
    - may not recognize that they are migraine
    - Personal experience generates bias
    - Need to limit parental responses ("you will have a chance to answer")
- Interviews need to be developmentally appropriate for the age
  - Impact of developing brain
  - Experienced interviewer
  - Potential use of drawings, visual tools
  - Semi-structured interview process

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Age appropriate assessments

- Children are in general healthy
  - Adults have co-morbid illness, less likely in children
  - Chronic diseases common in children
    - Allergy, asthma, anxiety, depression, obesity
  - Episodic syndrome role
- School will impact timing, disability, treatment availability
  - PedMIDAS has demonstrated kids not trying to get out of school, but leave social activities and home activities first

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Migraine in Pediatrics

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Classification of Headache

International Classification of Headache Disorders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

- **Migraine without aura**
- **Migraine with aura**
  - Migraine with typical aura
  - Migraine with brainstem aura
  - Hemiplegic migraine
  - Retinal migraine
- **Chronic migraine**
- **Complications of migraine**
  - Status migrainosus
  - Persistent aura without infarction
  - Migrainous infarction
  - Migraine aura-triggered seizure
- **Probable migraine**
  - Without aura
  - With aura
- **Episodic syndromes that may be associated with migraine**
  - Recurrent gastrointestinal disturbance
    - Cyclical vomiting syndrome
    - Abdominal migraine
  - Benign paroxysmal vertigo
  - Benign paroxysmal torticollis

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Migraine Without Aura (1.1)

International Classification of Headache Disorders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

- **At least 5 attacks**
- **Last 4 - 72 hours untreated**
  - **Sleep included in duration**
  - **2 - 72 hours in children under 18 years old**
  - *1-72 if diary confirmation (removed)*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Migraine Without Aura (1.1)

International Classification of Headache Disorders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

- **Two of four characteristics**
  - Unilateral location
  - Pulsating quality
  - Moderate or severe intensity
  - Aggravated by routine physical activity



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Migraine Without Aura (1.1)

International Classification of Headache Disorders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Cephalalgia 2013

- **One of two associated symptoms**
  - Nausea and/or vomiting
  - Photophobia and phonophobia
- **Not attributed to another disorder**



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Migraine Without Aura (1.1)

International Classification of Headache Disorders – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Cephalalgia 2013

- **Pediatric specific Notes/Comments**
  - Duration shorter (2-72 hours under 18 years old)
  - Location more often bilateral
    - Often frontotemporal
  - Photophobia and Phonophobia can be inferred by parental observation
- **No other pediatric specific comments**
  - Aura can be bilateral in children, but not in criteria or comments



---

---

---

---

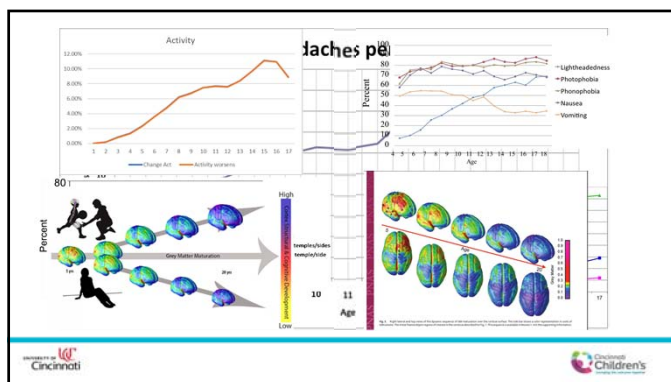
---

---

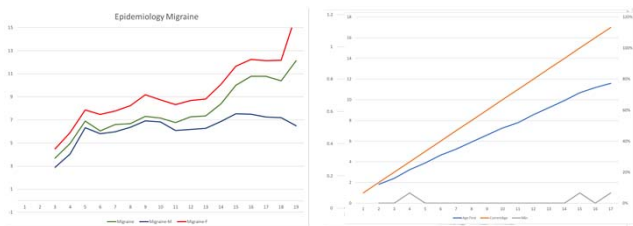
---

## Changes in Character with Age

- 5659 patients headache characteristics compared
- Age 4 to 18, mean 11.95 ± 3.53
- Analysis of diagnostic criteria across the developmental ages
- McKenzie Miller, summer student



## Migraine Epidemiology



## Why Migraine – Global Burden of Disease

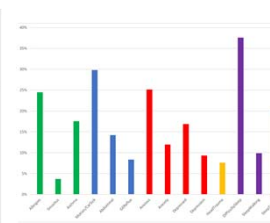
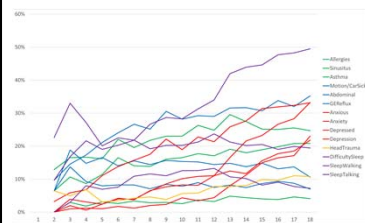
GBD 2015 Disease and Injury Incidence and Prevalence Collaborators, Lancet, Oct 8, 2016



University of Cincinnati

Children's Cincinnati

## Co-Morbid

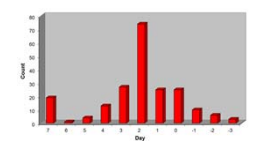
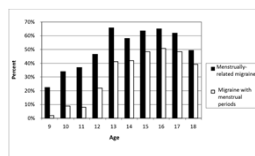


University of Cincinnati

Children's Cincinnati

## Menstrual Effects

- Is Puberty the Reason?
- Reviewed Headache Center Database
  - 896 girls, age 9 to 18
  - Clinically asked
    - Had first period
    - Headaches worsen with periods
    - Monthly pattern of worsening headaches

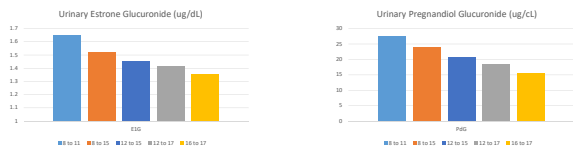


University of Cincinnati

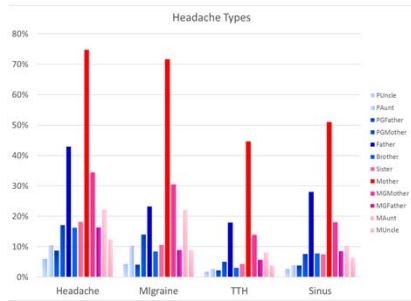
Children's Cincinnati



## Pubertal Urinary Menstrual Level Changes



## Family History



## Migraine Twin Children

Svensson et al, *Cephalalgia* 1999

- 1480 Swedish twins
- Born between Apr 1985 and Dec 1986
- 8 to 9 year olds
- Clinical Dx based on ICHD-I

	N	Twin pairs		
		-/-	+/+	+/+
MZ Boys	178	146	21	11
DZ Boys	183	142	36	5
MZ Girls	164	127	24	13
DZ Girls	206	125	38	7
DZ Un	314	227	80	7
Total	1039	707	199	43

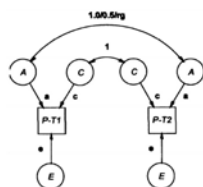


Table 5. Estimates of components of variance in 8 to 9-year-old boys and girls.

	$A^2$	$C^2$	$E^2$
Estimate	0.70	0	0.30
95% CI	0.54-0.82	-	0.18-0.46

$A^2$  = Additive genetic effects (heritability);  $C^2$  = shared environmental effects;  $E^2$  = nonshared environmental effects.

## MEG

- Migraineurs frequently note that it is hard to think during an acute attack
- MEG can measure cortical function
  - Finger tapping (200 trials, randomly presented clicks in right or left ear to tap fingers)
  - Mis-matched negativity
- Compared subjects with acute migraine seen in the acute headache unit vs. controls

---

---

---

---

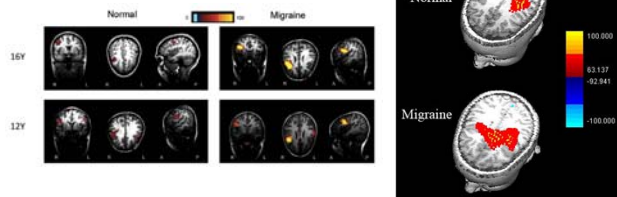
---

---

---

---

## Movement-evoked Magnetic Fields (MEFs) in Children with Migraine (left)



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Treatment

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## J Headache Pain (2011) 12:25–34

- [illegible]



- #3 Meds used
  - AMI, Cypro, VPA, Prop, TPM, Other
- #4 Dose of this medication
- #5 How long to tell if work
- #6 Effectiveness level
  - >50% reduction HF
  - <1/week
  - >50% reduction in disability
  - Ease of admin
  - Cost
  - Other
- #7 % reduction that would impact practice



- Sample questions
  - #3 Meds used
    - AMI, Cypro, VPA, Prop, TPM, Other
  - #4 Dose of this medication
  - #5 How long to tell if work
  - #6 Effectiveness level
    - >50% reduction HF
    - <1/week
    - >50% reduction in disability
    - Ease of admin
    - Cost
    - Other
  - #7 % reduction that would impact practice



- Trial Guidelines
- Acute Treatment
- Preventive Treatment



- Focus on Early Treatment
- Choose most appropriate route based on attack
  - Formulation may also be important
- Provide counseling on lifestyle factors
  - Including triggers
- Discuss Medication Overuse



- Children
- Adolescents

Abbreviations: NS = nasal spray; OOT = oral disintegrating tablet; OS = oral solution; OT = oral tablet



## Guest Editorial

### New Guidelines: Interpretation, Application and the Future

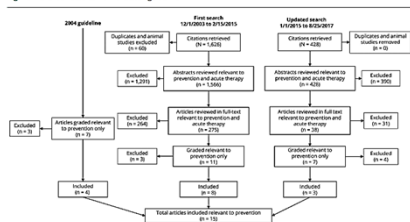
	Children	Adolescents	Treatment
First line	x	x	Ibuprofen OS (10 mg/kg)
Second line		x	Sumatriptan/cap- rofen OT (10/60, 20/10, 3/5/50 mg), zolmitriptan NS (3 mg), sumatriptan NS (20 mg), rizatriptan ODT (5 or 10 mg), or almotriptan OT (0.5 or 1.5 mg)
Third line		x	Try an alternate triptan, if 1 triptan fails to provide pain relief, to find the most effective agent to reduce mi- graine symptoms
If promi- nent nausea/ vomiting	x	x	Offer additional anti- emetic treatments

## Prevention Guidelines

- Majority fail to demonstrate superiority to placebo
- Lifestyle and behavioral factors may influence frequency
- Assessment and management of comorbid disorders
- Shared decision-making with patients and caregivers with discussion of limitation of evidence

## Prevention Guidelines Process

Figure Prevention studies from the 2004 guideline



## Prevention Guidelines

US FDA approved for  
- Children  
- Adolescents

Outcome	High confidence evidence more likely than placebo	Modest confidence evidence more likely than placebo	Low confidence evidence more likely than placebo	Modest confidence evidence more likely than placebo	Low confidence evidence more likely than placebo	Very low confidence evidence
Reduction in frequency of migraine attacks	Amitriptyline 10 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly
Reduction in disability	Amitriptyline 10 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly
Reduction in headache frequency	Amitriptyline 10 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly
Reduction in headache severity	Amitriptyline 10 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly
Reduction in headache frequency	Amitriptyline 10 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly
Reduction in headache severity	Amitriptyline 10 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly	Topiramate 150 mg nightly or 2.5 mg/kg nightly

Abbreviations: CBT = cognitive behavioral therapy; DPH-ER = extended-release diphysamine sodium.

## CHAMP Study Goals

- Outcome for Aims 1-3 – reduction in migraine frequency and disability
  - Aim 1: Determine if amitriptyline (AMI) is superior to placebo
  - Aim 2: Determine if topiramate (TPM) is superior to placebo
  - Aim 3: Determine superiority for AMI vs TPM
- Aim 4: To prospectively and systematically determine the safety and tolerability profiles of AMI, TPM and placebo

Protocol - Hershey, et al, Headache 2013

## CHAMP results –

Protocol - Hershey, et al, Headache 2013

Baseline - Powers, et al, Headache 2016

N Engl J Med 2017; 376:115-124 January 12, 2017 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1610384  
[http://www.nejm.org/doi/suppl/10.1056/NEJMoa1610384/suppl\\_file/nejmoa1610384\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.nejm.org/doi/suppl/10.1056/NEJMoa1610384/suppl_file/nejmoa1610384_appendix.pdf)

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT01581281>

### Trial of Amitriptyline, Topiramate, and Placebo for Pediatric Migraine

Scott W. Powers, Ph.D., Christopher S. Coffey, Ph.D.,  
Lyn A. Chamberlin, R.D., M.Ed., David J. Eicklund, R.N., M.S.N.,  
Elizabeth A. Rittenger, M.S., Jon W. Yankley, M.S., Leslie L. Kuehner, B.S.,  
Linda L. Porter, Ph.D., and Andrew D. Hershey, M.D., Ph.D.,  
for the CHAMP Investigators

[illegible]

# CHAMP - Supplementary

**D.4 Overall Randomizations**

Cumulative Number of Subjects Randomized

Report generated on data submitted as of 05Aug2016

Month

\*There were 652 total consents, in 455 unique subjects - since 4 subjects were reconsented after initially failing screening

University of Cincinnati

Children's Cincinnati

# Baseline Results

The left chart displays the number of headache days per week (Y-axis, 0 to 7) over 4 weeks (X-axis). The data points are approximately 3.5, 3.5, 3.5, and 3.5, with error bars indicating variability. The right chart displays the Headache Average (red bars) and Odds (blue line) over 28 weeks (X-axis). The Headache Average is consistently around 0.3, and the Odds are consistently around 0.3.

**Headache Average and Odds Data (Estimated from Right Chart)**

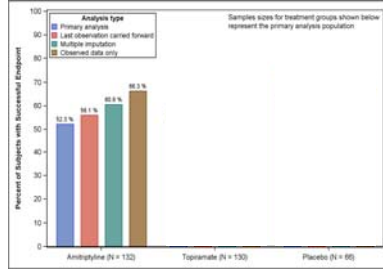
Week	Headache Average	Odds
1	0.3	0.3
2	0.3	0.3
3	0.3	0.3
4	0.3	0.3
5	0.3	0.3
6	0.3	0.3
7	0.3	0.3
8	0.3	0.3
9	0.3	0.3
10	0.3	0.3
11	0.3	0.3
12	0.3	0.3
13	0.3	0.3
14	0.3	0.3
15	0.3	0.3
16	0.3	0.3
17	0.3	0.3
18	0.3	0.3
19	0.3	0.3
20	0.3	0.3
21	0.3	0.3
22	0.3	0.3
23	0.3	0.3
24	0.3	0.3
25	0.3	0.3
26	0.3	0.3
27	0.3	0.3
28	0.3	0.3

**Headache Days Data (Estimated from Left Chart)**

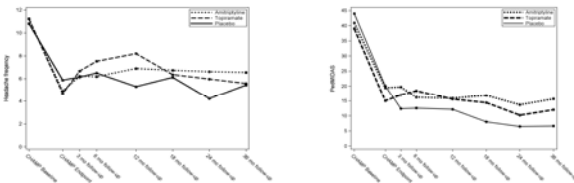
Week	Number of Headache Days
1	3.5
2	3.5
3	3.5
4	3.5

## Primary (>50%)

- Primary – all subjects without data considered failures
- Last Observation Carried Forward – most recent visit with 28 day calendar
- Multiple Imputation – methods with multiple chains
- Observed data – all subjects with baseline and last 28 days



## Long Term Follow-up

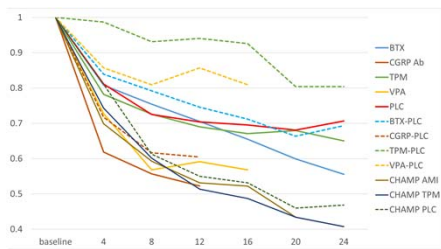


## Placebo

(or is it really expectation)

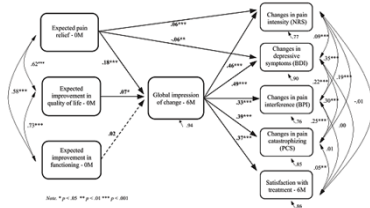


## Is there a placebo problem



## Expectation of Response

Cormier et al, Pain 2016

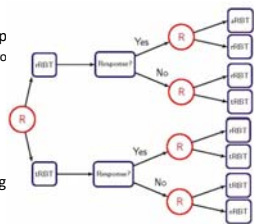


## Where do we go from here?

- Children and adolescents with real world migraine get better
  - 50 to 70% with a >50% reduction in headache frequency
  - Mean frequency at end down to almost 1 per week
  - Thus, multidisciplinary care works
- Biochemical effect of medication is not the reason
- Is the reason expectation of response?
- What do we do with the 30-40% that don't get better?

## Where do we go from here?

- Traditional RTC model
  - Doesn't work because of high level of Exp
    - By the time studies done in kids, already "pro"
- Modifications
  - Placebo run in
  - Placebo run in with survival curve
  - Cross over
- New Models
  - SMART design (Sequential, Multiple Assign)



## Research Submission

### Cognitive Behavioral Therapy plus Amitriptyline for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Migraine Reduces Headache Days to $\leq 4$ Per Month

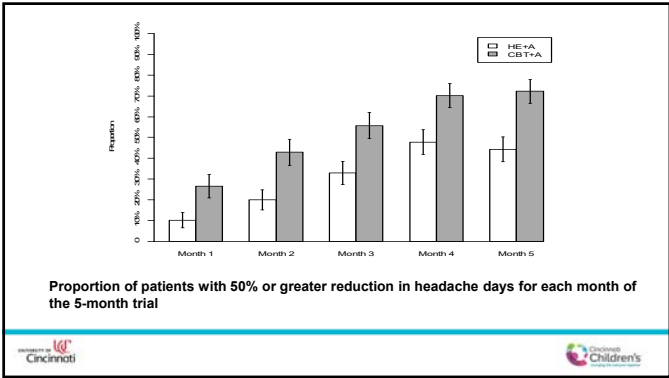
John W. Kroner, MS; Andrew D. Hershey, MD, PhD, FAHS; Susmita M. Kashikar-Zuck, PhD; Susan L. LeCates, MSN; Janelle R. Allen, MS; Shalonda K. Slater, PhD; Mariam Zafar, PsyD; Marielle A. Kabbouche, MD, FAHS; Hope L. O'Brien, MD; Chad E. Shenk, PhD; Joseph R. Rausch, PhD; Ashley M. Kroon Van Diest, PhD; Scott W. Powers, PhD, ABPP, FAHS

### Trajectory of Improvement in Children and Adolescents With Chronic Migraine: Results From the Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and Amitriptyline Trial



John W. Kroner,\* James Peugh,\*<sup>1,2</sup> Susmita M. Kashikar-Zuck,\*<sup>1,2</sup> Susan L. LeCates,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Janelle R. Allen,\*<sup>2,3</sup> Shalonda K. Slater,\*<sup>1,2,3</sup> Mariam Zafar,\*<sup>1,2,3</sup> Marielle A. Kabbouche,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Hope L. O'Brien,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Chad E. Shenk,\*<sup>2,3</sup> Ashley M. Kroon Van Diest,\*<sup>1,2,3</sup> Andrew D. Hershey,<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Scott W. Powers\*<sup>1,2,3</sup>

\*Division of Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology; <sup>1</sup>Division of Neurology; <sup>2</sup>Headache Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio.




---

---

---

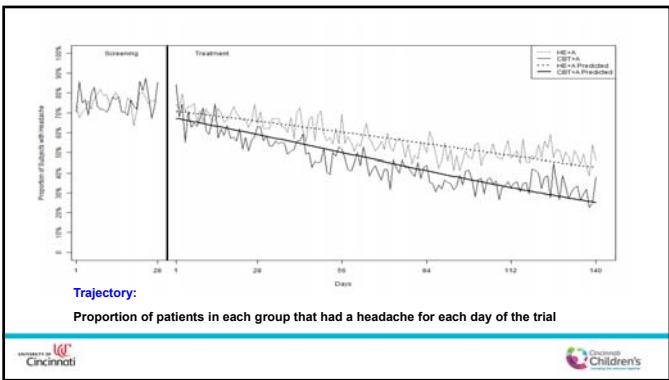
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Putting it all together – a treatment strategy

- Patients and parents present because headaches are impacting their lives “Need to do something”
- Baseline of CHAMP shows that just because you diagnosis, provide acute treatment, and introduce healthy habits, it’s not enough
- Expectation of response is needed
  - Pharmaceutical expectation
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - Wait and see
  - “The Expert Effect”



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Conclusions

- Migraine is common in children and adolescents
  - Increasing with brain maturation
- Diagnostic criteria are more uniform across the ages with the exception of duration
- Children and Adolescents need to be active participants in the decision making process
  - This may improve expectation and thus response and outcomes
- New and novel study designs are likely needed to advance headache treatment in children and adolescents



---

---

---

---

---

---

---