

Headache

Deadly “Dozen” + 5

1. SAH
2. Meningitis/encephalitis
3. CO poisoning
4. Tumor/mass/abscess
5. Preeclampsia/eclampsia
6. Hypoglycemia
7. Hydrocephalus
8. Hypertensive encephalopathy
9. Cerebral venous thrombosis
10. Stroke
11. Subdural/epidural hematoma
12. High altitude cerebral edema
13. Hypoxia
14. Carotid artery dissection
15. Idiopathic intracranial HTN
16. Acute closure glaucoma
17. Temporal Arteritis

Headache causes

1. Migraine
2. Cluster headache
3. Sinusitis
4. Dehydration
5. Cold Stimulus headache
6. Cough headache
7. Nummular headache
8. Hypnic headache
9. Tension headache
10. Eye Strain
11. Pheochromocytoma
12. Hypertension
13. TMJ syndrome
14. Post-concussive syndrome
15. Cough headache
16. Trigeminal neuralgia
17. Occipital neuralgia
18. Zoster
19. Caffeine withdrawal
20. NSAID withdrawal
21. Narcotic withdrawal
22. Post-coital headache
23. Post-LP headache
24. Cervicogenic headache
25. Iritis
26. Optic neuritis
27. Otitis media
28. Streptococcal pharyngitis
29. Influenza
30. Post-ictal headache

31. Toxoplasmosis
32. MAO inhibitors
33. Odontogenic causes
34. Viral syndromes
35. Other ENT causes

Red Flag Associated Symptoms/Signs

1. Syncope
2. Explosive onset
3. Age >50 years (no history)
4. Fever
5. Seizure
6. Altered mental status
7. Visual changes
8. Eye pain
9. Papilledema
10. Neck stiffness
11. Pregnancy/Post-partum
12. Hypertension
13. Hyper-reflexia
14. Focal neurological abnormality
15. Trauma
16. Anti-coagulant therapy
17. First cold spell or ice storm
18. HIV/AIDS
19. Facial infection
20. Malignancy
21. Exertional headache
22. Immunosuppression
23. Awakened at night
24. OCPs
25. Coagulopathy

Evaluation

1. Vital signs
2. Visual acuity
3. Non-contrast CT
4. CT-angiography
5. MRI/MRV
6. LP/CSF/OP
7. ESR
8. Intraocular pressure
9. Pregnancy test
10. Accucheck
11. UA - Protein
12. Shunt series
13. CO level
14. D-dimer

Last update 12/7/12