

E-Pearl of the Week

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Headache in ischemic stroke

About one fourth to one third of those suffering from ischemic stroke experience a headache. Most often the headache is a tension-type headache that is bilateral. When the headache is unilateral, it is usually ipsilateral to the infarction. Headache is more likely to occur in posterior circulation strokes and especially with infarction in posterior cerebral artery territory and in the cerebellum. Patients with a previous history of migraine are more likely to suffer a headache with an ischemic stroke. Migraineurs that present with headache and a focal neurologic deficit should be evaluated very carefully to avoid misdiagnosis as so-called, "complicated migraine."

References

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