

INFUSED MEDICATION FOR MIGRAINE DISEASE

Severe throbbing pain, nausea, extreme sensitivity to light and sound — these life-disrupting symptoms are all too familiar to people living with migraine disease. Thanks to medical research and innovation, migraine patients have never had more treatment options. Intravenous infused medications recently expanded those options by offering fast, effective relief that other treatments cannot always provide.







FAST facts

Q: What are the symptoms of migraine disease?

A disabling neurological disease, migraine has different symptoms than other headache disorders. Symptoms vary from person to person, but the **40 million Americans with migraine** may experience:



Moderate-to-severe head pain, which may be intense and hard to endure



Pain that worsens with activity or movement



Nausea, sometimes accompanied by vomiting



Sensitivity to light, noise or smells

Some people experience migraine with aura, seeing flashes of light or blind or bright spots. Aura can cause blurred vision or temporary loss of vision.¹

The symptoms of migraine disease are often invisible, affecting people both physically and mentally. The disease negatively impacts patients' careers, social relationships with family and friends, and ability to provide basic self-care and participate in daily activities.

Q: How is migraine disease diagnosed?

Migraine disease is usually diagnosed by a neurologist based on family or personal medical history, symptoms and an examination. Sometimes doctors also use magnetic resonance imaging, or MRIs, as well as computerized tomography, known as CT scans.

For many years, people experiencing migraine disease felt defeated by the lack of effective treatments. Today patients have dozens of options to try, though there is no true cure and some medications may provoke undesirable side effects.

Q: What treatment options are available to patients?

Treatment options fall into two broad categories: Preventives and acute treatments.

Preventives may include non-migraine medications such as blood pressure-lowering agents, anti-seizure drugs and antidepressants. Injections of botulinum neurotoxins and CGRP antagonists are sometimes prescribed.² Patients may also take oral prescribed medications, such as rimegepant, to treat and prevent migraine attacks. In addition, there is a newer form of preventive treatment for chronic migraine that's administered by infusion.

Pain relievers can be over-the-counter medications such as aspirin and ibuprofen, sometimes combined with caffeine. Prescription pain medications that reduce attack duration and severity include triptans, lasmiditan, CGRP antagonists, opioids and other prescribed therapies. Headache devices are also used to treat symptoms during migraine attacks and to prevent future episodes.

Patients often benefit from working with their health care provider to find a combination of these medications that works best for them.



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Q: What makes infused medicine different from other migraine treatments?

Intravenous, or IV, infusion therapy delivers medications directly into the bloodstream, providing faster prevention than oral treatments do for many patients.³ There are different infused treatment regimens, including a relatively new one called eptinezumab, recently approved by the FDA. The drug, which is a CGRP antagonist, can be effective for patients who haven't been able to obtain relief from oral medications, injectable medications or headache devices.

Q: How often is infused medicine administered?

Other drugs in the CGRP antagonist category are usually administered monthly via self-injection at home.⁴ However, infused medication is a simple procedure that can save patients a considerable amount of time. Each therapy session lasts approximately half an hour and is given once every three months at a health care provider's office.⁵

Q: What does research show about infused medicine?

Multiple global clinical trials have demonstrated the efficacy and safety of the infused migraine medication eptinezumab.

Patients with episodic migraine who were treated with the drug experienced significantly fewer headache days per month compared to those given a placebo. They also found that headaches on the day following administration were reduced by more than half.

About one-third of patients achieved a 75% reduction in migraine days, and an average of one patient in five had no migraine attacks in the six months that followed.⁶

One neurologist and headache specialist commented that infused medication offered "rapid onset and sustained benefit."⁷





CONCLUSION

Infused medication offers an exciting new addition to the growing range of treatment options for people living with migraine disease.

With more treatment options than ever before, patients can partner with a trusted health care provider — whether that's a primary care provider or a headache specialist — to find what works best for them. With the help of the right health care provider and the right treatment plan for them, people living with migraine can get control over their disease and reclaim their day-to-day lives.



FASTfacts

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- 7. Ibid



About The Headache & Migraine Policy Forum

The Headache & Migraine Policy Forum advances public policies and practices that promote accelerated innovation and improved treatments for persons living with headache disorders and migraine disease.

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