

Migraine, types and treatment



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EPIDEMIOLOGY AND IMPACT

- Migraine is a common, often disabling disease of the nervous system
- The burden of migraine is greatest for the most severely affected people
- Despite improvements, migraine remains underdiagnosed and undertreated
- Resolving barriers to care requires several interventions

MIGRAINE PREVALENCE

(American Migraine Study II)

- There are currently 36 million people with migraine age 12+ in the United States
 - 27 million female
 - 9 million male
- Nearly 1 in 4 households has at least 1 person with migraine
- Migraine prevalence peaks between the ages of 25–55

BURDEN OF MIGRAINE

Individual burden

Societal burden

- Direct costs
 - \$2.5 billion per year
- Indirect costs
 - \$13-31 billion per year
 - Absenteeism
 - Reduced effectiveness
- Burden disproportionately distributed
 - 51% females with migraine → 93% of work loss due to migraine
 - 38% males with migraine → 85% work loss due to migraine



WHAT IS MIGRAINE?

- Disorder characterized by episodic attacks of head pain and associated symptoms, such as nausea, sensitivity to light, sound, or intolerance to head movement
- Inherited tendency
- Neurobiologically based, common clinical problem

GENETIC BASIS

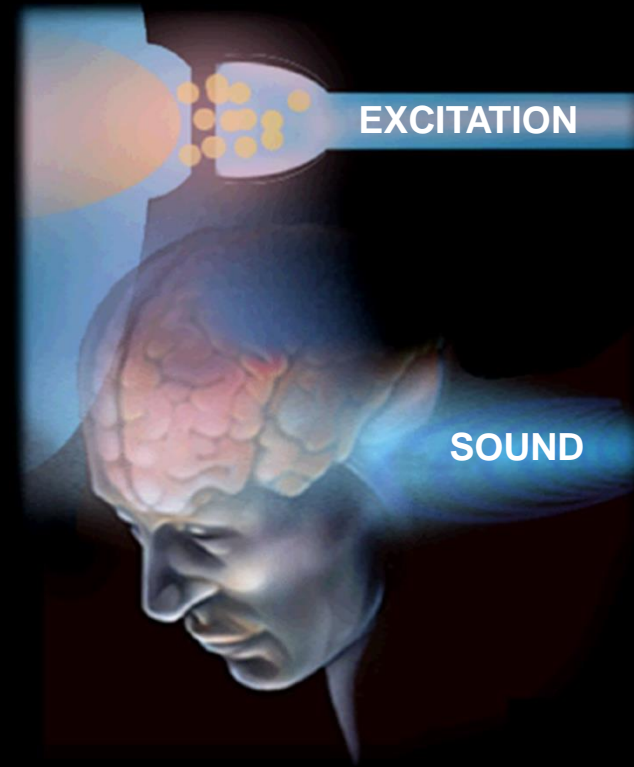
Twin studies: MZ > DZ

Ion channelopathy –

Familial hemiplegic migraine

- α_{1A} subunit of the P/Q voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channel on chromosome 19 (~50% of cases)
- Mutation in gene *ATP1A2* (encodes alpha2 subunit of Na^+/K^+ pump) results in loss of function of single *ATP1A2* allele (chromosome 1)
- Linked to regular migraine

Genetically heterogeneous



***SENSITIVE* BRAIN**

People with Migraine have altered neuro-physiologic responses between attacks

Stabbing headache
("ice-pick" pains)

Enhanced sensory processing

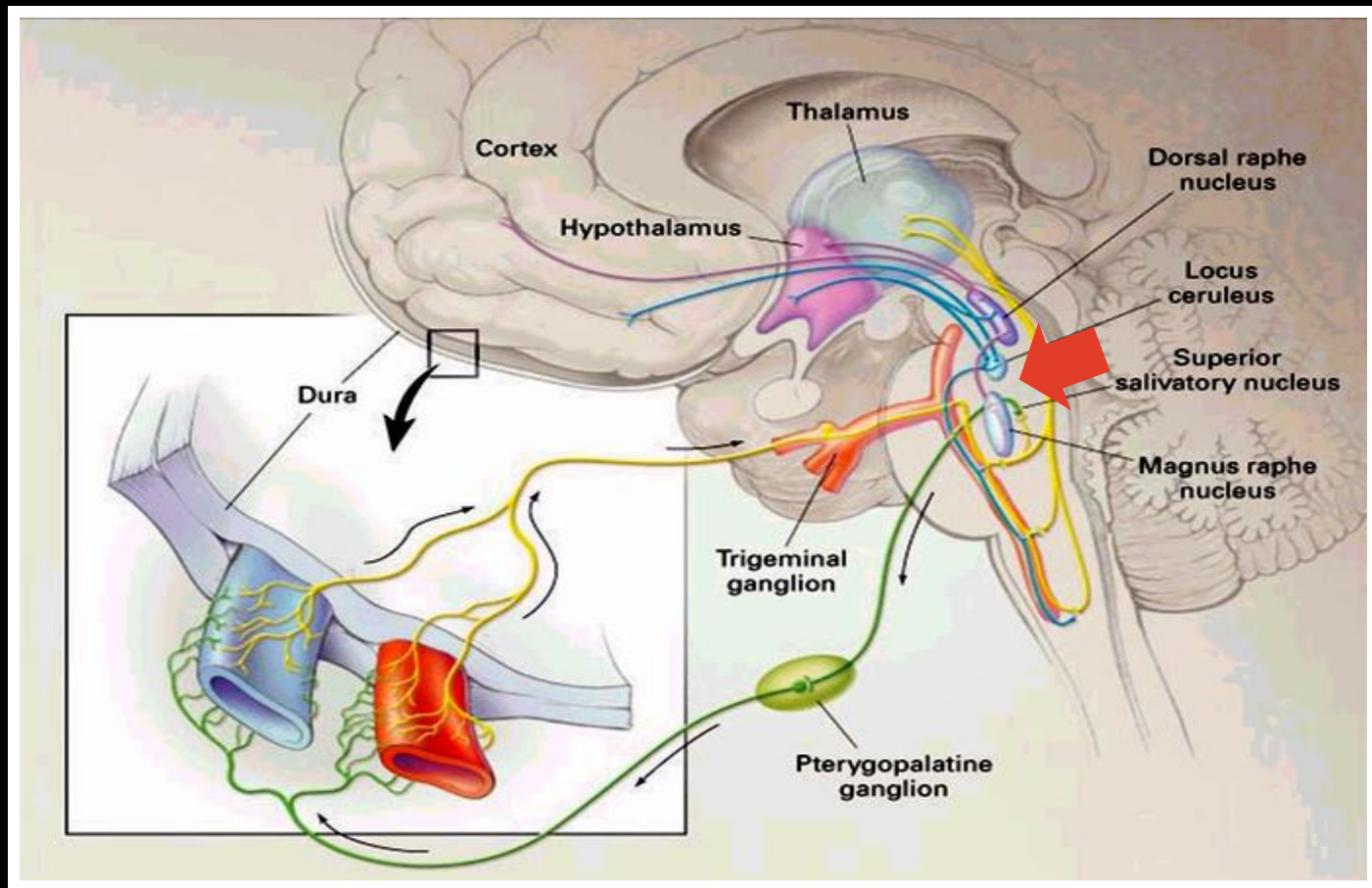
- visual
- auditory



TRIGGERING MIGRAINE

- Episodes may recur regularly as if initiated by an internal clock located in the hypothalamus
- Attacks may originate in the nervous system in response to stress or excessive afferent stimulation, such as flickering light or noise
- Some triggers act primarily on the cranial blood vessels; craniovascular afferents may then excite central pathways
- For many patients no factor can be identified

THE NEUROVASCULAR THEORY



Goadsby PJ et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2002.

THE NEUROVASCULAR THEORY

Migraine is a neurovascular pain syndrome

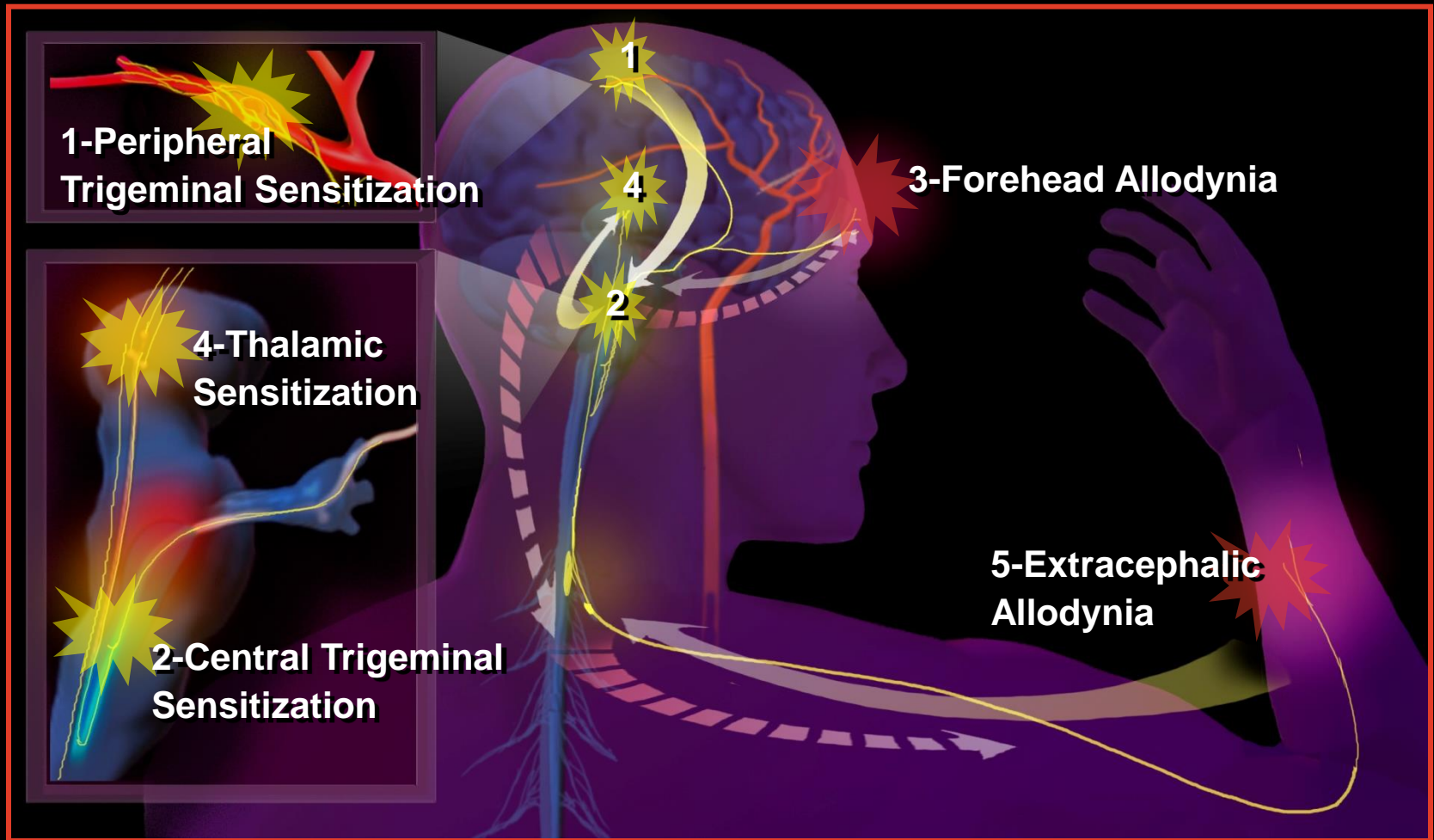
Referred pain from dura mater and blood vessels

Peripheral neural processing

- Neurogenic plasma protein extravasation (PPE)
- Neuropeptides

Central neural processing

CUTANEOUS ALLODYNIA



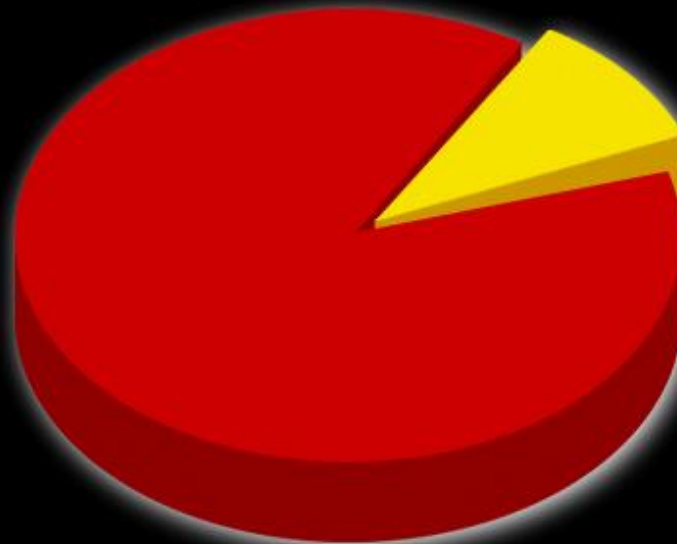
CLINICAL PRESENTATION OF HEADACHES

Primary

- Migraine
- Tension-type (TTH)
- Cluster
- Other
(eg, benign cough headache)

Secondary

- Infection
- Hemorrhage
- Increased ICP
- Brain tumor



WORRISOME HEADACHE RED FLAGS

“SNOOP”

- **S**ystemic symptoms (fever, weight loss) or
Secondary risk factors (HIV, systemic cancer)
- **N**eurologic symptoms or abnormal signs (confusion, impaired alertness, or consciousness)
- **O**nset: sudden, abrupt, or split-second
- **O**lder: new onset and progressive headache, especially in middle-age >50 (giant cell arteritis)
- **P**revious headache history: first headache or different (change in attack frequency, severity, or clinical features)

ICHD-3 Beta Diagnostic Criteria Migraine without Aura

- A. At least five attacks fulfilling criteria B–D
- B. Headache attacks lasting 4-72 hours (untreated or unsuccessfully treated)
- C. Headache has at least two of the following four characteristics:
 - 1. unilateral location
 - 2. pulsating quality
 - 3. moderate or severe pain intensity
 - 4. aggravation by or causing avoidance of routine physical activity (e.g. walking or climbing stairs)
- D. During headache at least one of the following:
 - 1. nausea and/or vomiting
 - 2. photophobia and phonophobia
- E. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis

IHS *MIGRAINE* AND *TENSION-* TYPE HEADACHE

CEPHALALGIA

An International Journal of Headache

Migraine

- ≥ 5 attacks lasting 4–72 h
- ≥ 2 of the following 4
 - Unilateral
 - Pulsating
 - Moderate or severe intensity
 - Aggravation by routine physical activity
- ≥ 1 of the following
 - Nausea and/or vomiting
 - Photophobia and phonophobia
- Not attributable to another disorder

Tension

- ≥ 10 attacks lasting 30 min–7 days
- ≥ 2 of the following 4
 - Bilateral
 - Pressing/tightening (Not pulsating)
 - Mild or moderate intensity
 - Not aggravated by routine physical activity
- No nausea or vomiting
- One or neither photophobia or phonophobia
- Not attributable to another disorder

IMPORTANT DIAGNOSTIC CONSIDERATIONS

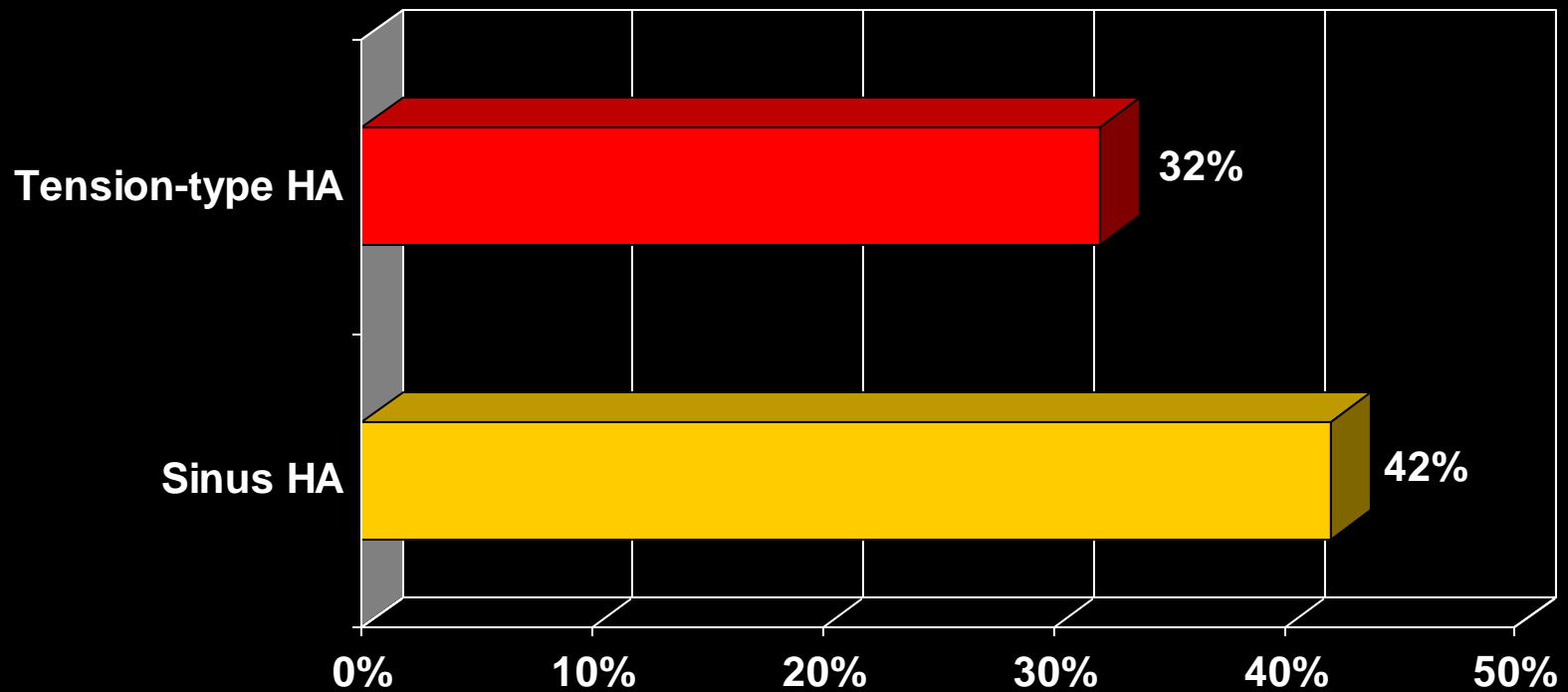
- No single criterion necessary nor sufficient for diagnosis
- 15% of patients have a neurological aura
- IHS criteria do not require GI symptoms
- Vomiting occurs in $< 1/3$ of patients
- 41% of migraine patients report bilateral pain
- 50% of the time, pain is non-pulsating

Recurring moderate-to-severe headache is migraine until proven otherwise

Russell MB et al. *Cephalalgia*. 1996.

Pryse-Phillips WEM et al. *Can Med Assoc J*. 1997.

UNDIAGNOSED MIGRAINE SUFFERERS OFTEN RECEIVE OTHER MEDICAL DIAGNOSES



Lipton RB et al. *Headache*. 2001.

DIAGNOSIS TESTING

CT AND MRI

■ In patients with recurrent migraine, neither CT nor MRI is warranted except in cases with:

- Recent substantial change in headache pattern
- History of seizures
- Focal neurologic symptoms or signs

■ Role of CT or MRI in patients with nonmigraine headache is unclear

■ Consensus expert opinion

- MRI is more sensitive



STRATEGIES FOR MIGRAINE TREATMENT

Acute treatment

To stop pain and prevent progression

Preemptive treatment

Migraine trigger time-limited and predictable

Preventive treatment

Decrease in migraine frequency warranted

ACUTE MIGRAINE MEDICATIONS

Nonspecific

- NSAIDs
- Combination analgesics
- Opioids?
- Neuroleptics/antiemetics
- Corticosteroids

Specific

- Ergotamine/DHE
- Triptans
- CGRP antibodies?



ACUTE TREATMENT PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Stratified care
- ✓ Early intervention
- ✓ Use correct dose and formulation
- ✓ Use a maximum of 2–3 days/week
- ✓ Use preventive therapy in selected patients

TRIPTANS

Selective 5-HT_{1B/1D/1F} agonists

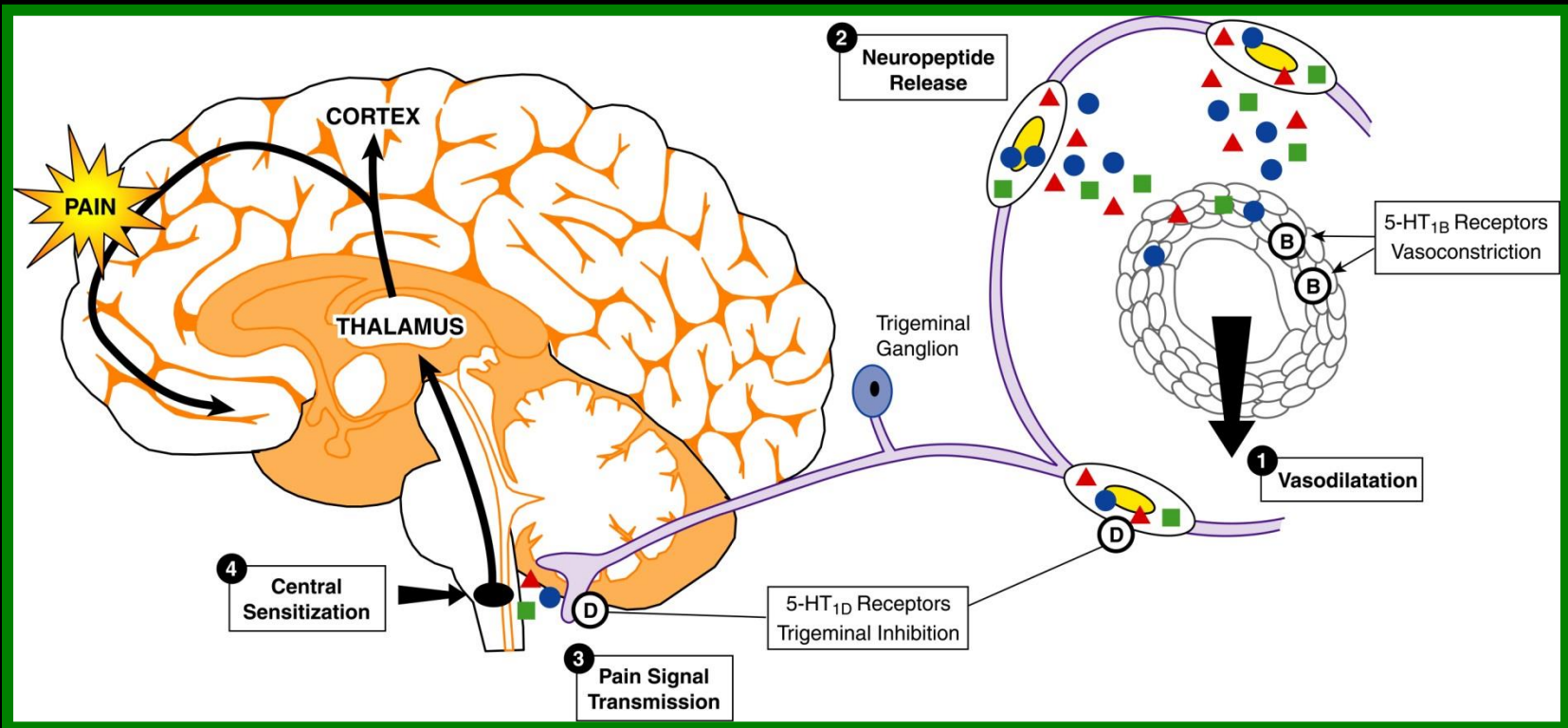
As a class, relative to nonspecific therapies, triptans provide

- Rapid onset of action
- High efficacy
- Favorable side effect profile

Adverse events and contraindications

HOW DO SPECIFIC MEDICATIONS WORK?

Trigeminovascular Antimigraine Targets



TRIPTANS: TREATMENT CHOICES

Sumatriptan

- Tablet (25, 50, 100 mg)
- Injection (3, 4, 6 mg)
- Nasal spray (5, 20 mg)
- Breath Powered Nasal

Zolmitriptan

- Tablet & melt (2.5, 5 mg)
- Nasal spray (5 mg)

Naratriptan

- Tablet (1, 2.5 mg)

Rizatriptan

- Tablet & melt (5, 10 mg)

Almotriptan

- Tablet (6.25, 12.5 mg)

Frovatriptan

- Tablet (2.5 mg)

Eletriptan

- Tablet (20, 40 mg)

- Are there differences between the triptans?
- If one triptan fails, will another triptan work?

ROUTES OF ADMINISTRATION

- Oral therapies: most medications

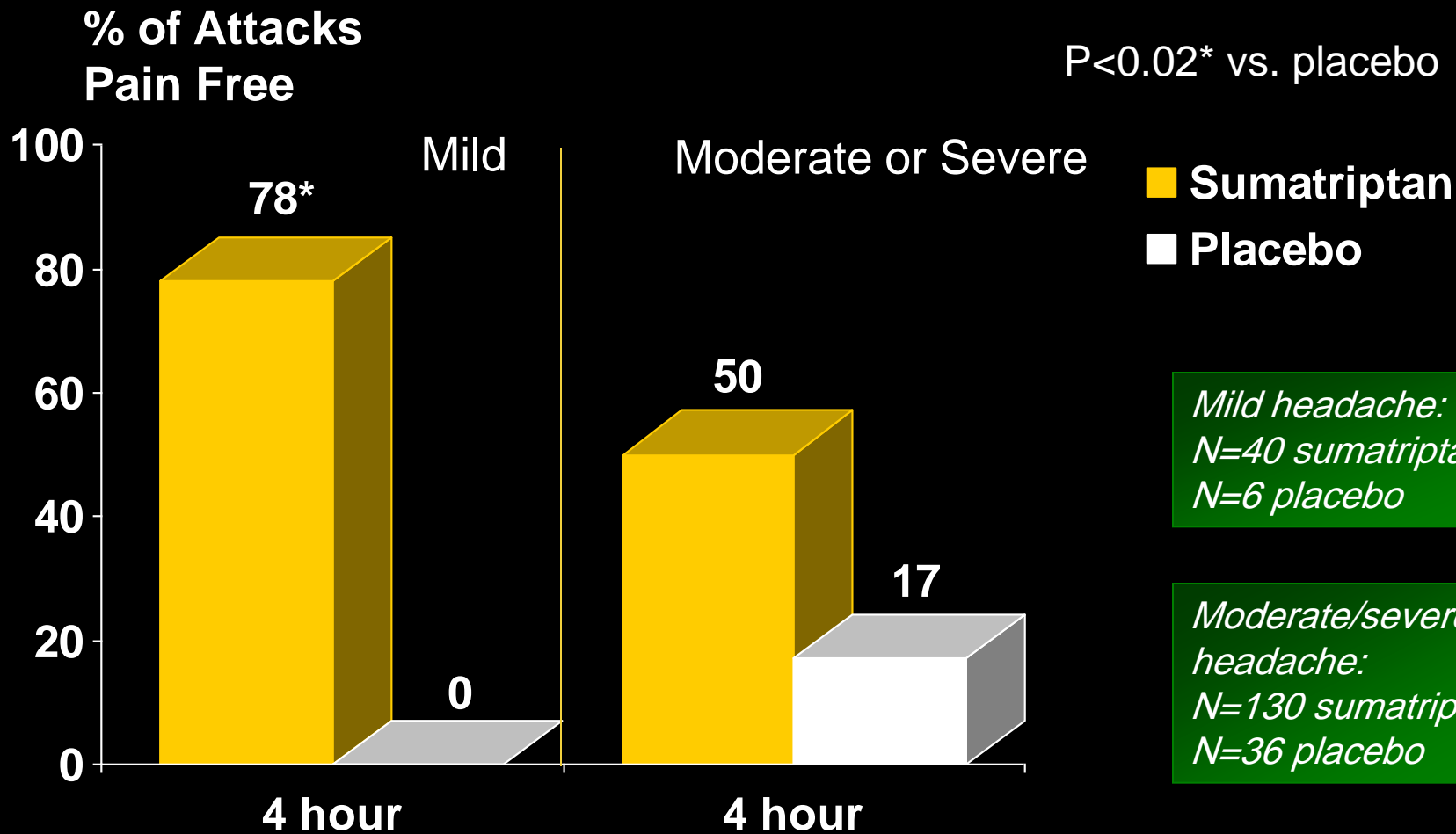
- Nasal sprays: sumatriptan, DHE, zolmitriptan

- Injectable (SL, IM, IV)
sumatriptan, DHE, injectable NSAIDs, neuroleptics

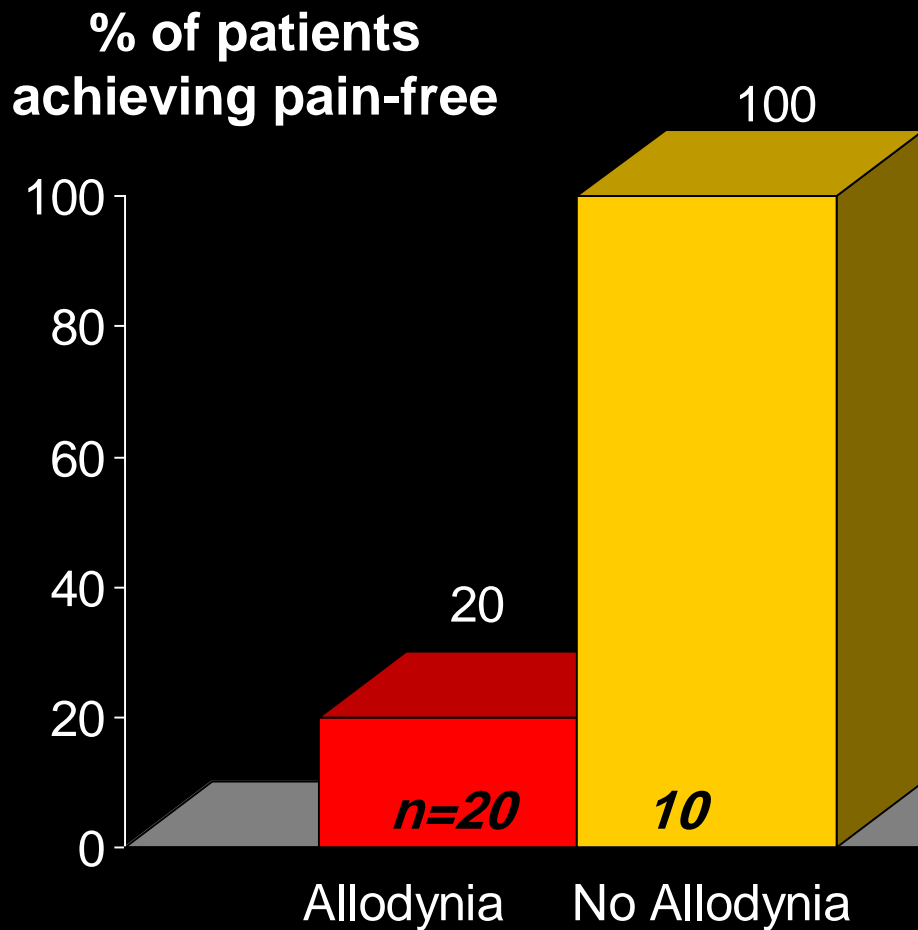
- Suppositories: antiemetics, ergots, opioids



TREAT MIGRAINE WHEN PAIN IS MILD



PRESENCE OF CUTANEOUS ALLODYNIA PREDICTS TRIPTAN EFFICACY

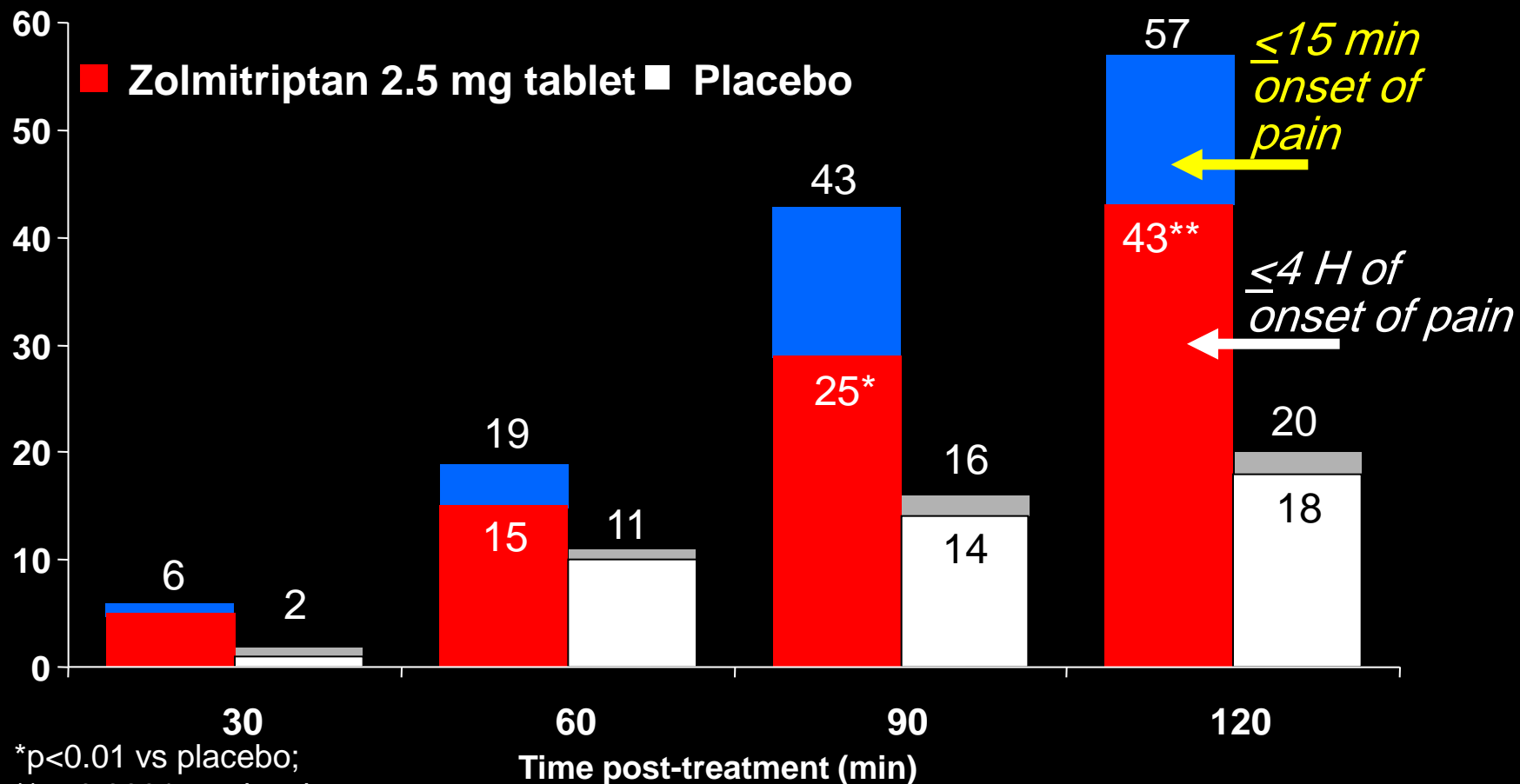


Triptans lead to a reduction in pain intensity, but only 20% achieved pain-free status

Triptans relieve throbbing in all patients, regardless of presence of allodynia at time of treatment

TREATING WITHIN 15 MIN OF PAIN ONSET IMPROVES PAIN-FREE RATES

Pain-free Response (% patients)



* $p < 0.01$ vs placebo;

** $p < 0.0001$ vs placebo

REBOUND

- **Rebound**: Recurring headache induced by repetitive and chronic overuse of acute headache medication
 - Prevention: Limit frequency and dose of medications
 - Treatment: Withdrawal and washout of overused medication; consider using preventives

NON-DRUG SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT

- Quiet/White noise
- Dim Light (NO SCREENS!)
- Cool Temp
- Fluids
- Ignore?
- Setting Expectations – when will you return to class

HEADACHE TREATMENT: OPIOIDS AND BUTALBITAL

WHO USES THEM...?

Opioids

- Danger of abuse: restrict use

Butalbital Combination Analgesics

- No controlled studies have established their efficacy in migraine

- Major concerns are overuse, drug-induced headache, and withdrawal

- Use should be limited and carefully monitored

GUIDELINES: WHEN TO USE PREVENTIVE MANAGEMENT

- Migraine significantly interferes with patient's daily routine, despite acute R_x
- Acute medications contraindicated, ineffective, intolerable AEs, or overused
- Frequent headache (≥ 3 attacks per month?)
- Uncommon migraine conditions
- Patient preference

GOALS OF PREVENTIVE TREATMENT

- Decrease attack frequency (by 50%), intensity, and duration
- Improve responsiveness to acute R_x
- Improve function and decrease disability

PREVENTIVE MEDICATIONS: DRUG CLASSES

Antiepileptics

Antidepressants

β -Blockers

Ca²⁺-Channel blockers

NSAIDs

5-HT antagonists

Neurotoxins

Other

- Vitamins
- Minerals
- Herbs
- Angiotensin antagonists

NONPHARMACOLOGIC TREATMENT: POTENTIAL INDICATIONS

- Patient preference

- Poor tolerance, response, or contraindications to drug therapy

- Pregnancy, planned pregnancy, or nursing

- History of overuse

- Significant life stress or deficient stress-coping skills

NONPHARMACOLOGIC TREATMENTS

Effective: **GRADE A**

- Relaxation training
- Thermal biofeedback with relaxation training
- EMG biofeedback
- Cognitive behavioral therapy

Insufficient evidence to recommend: **GRADE C**

- Acupuncture
- TENS
- Cervical manipulation
- Occlusal adjustment
- Hyperbaric oxygen
- Hypnosis

The benefits of behavioral therapy (eg, biofeedback, relaxation) are in addition to preventive drug therapy (eg, propranolol, amitriptyline): **GRADE B**

Questions?