

Headache Center

ucsfhealth.org/headache



1,000+
patients treated
annually



MIGRAINE FACTS*

- 12% of the U.S. population suffers from migraine
- Migraine is most common between the ages of 18 and 44, with women disproportionately affected

*Reference: Migraine Research Foundation website. <https://migraineresearchfoundation.org/about-migraine/migraine-facts/>. Accessed April 21, 2021.

UNPARALLELED HEADACHE CARE AND COMPREHENSIVE INPATIENT HEADACHE UNIT

As the only program with an Inpatient Headache Treatment Unit in Northern California, UCSF's Headache Center helps improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from debilitating headaches. Taking a multidisciplinary approach to care, specialists from neurology, neurosurgery, otolaryngology and ophthalmology collaborate on cases as indicated, providing unmatched expertise. Additionally, partnership with UCSF's Osher Center for Integrative Medicine allows us to combine conventional and alternative medicine approaches.

We provide an expedited referral process for migraine sufferers needing inpatient care as well as peer consultations for challenging cases and outpatient clinical care. Patients have access to multiple clinical trials that explore the mechanisms of headaches and treatment advances. The Headache Center has full accreditation by the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties.

CONDITIONS TREATED

- Cervicogenic headaches
- Chronic post-traumatic headaches
- Hemicrania continua
- Intractable cluster headaches
- Low- and high-intracranial-pressure headaches
- Medication overuse headaches
- Refractory chronic migraine
- Tension headaches
- Trigeminal neuralgia

TREATMENTS OFFERED

- Acute medications for symptom reduction
- Botulinum toxin for migraines
- Calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) monoclonal antibodies
- Inpatient therapy and evaluation
- Nerve blocks
- Nonpharmacological treatment
- Oral medications for prevention of headaches
- Outpatient medication management
- Trigger-point injections

OUR TEAM

Neurologists

Morris Levin, MD
Director, Headache Center
Sarah Ahmad, MD
Sarah Bobker, MD
Rebecca L. Michael, MD
Nina Riggins, MD
Maggie Waung, MD, PhD

Nurse Practitioners

Annika Ehrlich, FNP, MSN
Cassandra Recchioni, NP, MSN

INFORMATION / REFERRALS

■ PHONE (415) 353-8393 ■ FAX (415) 353-9539

UCSF Health

Fast-Tracked Migraine Appointment Criteria

Use the checklist below to determine if a migraine patient qualifies for a fast-tracked appointment. For patients who are candidates, your referral will receive priority, with an appointment scheduled promptly. If your patient does not meet the criteria, we still make every effort to schedule appointments promptly. After treatment, the patient returns to the referring physician for follow-up care.

CRITERIA

1 HEADACHE HISTORY (both criteria must apply)

- More than three months
- More than 12 headaches per month

2 FAILURE OF THREE OR MORE PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

- Antidepressants
- Anti-epilepsy medications
- Antispasmodics
- Beta-blockers
- Botox injections
- CGRP monoclonal antibodies
- Calcium channel blockers
- Nerve blocks

3 MEDICALLY AND NEUROLOGICALLY STABLE (all three criteria must apply)

- Electrocardiogram (EKG), comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP), complete blood count (CBC) and coagulation profile all normal and all done within the past six months
- Not taking daily opioids or barbiturates
- Not currently under evaluation for acute neurological or psychiatric disease