Introduction to our Center

The Child & Adolescent Headache Program is a specialty clinic within the Department of Neurology. Our focus is the treatment of patients with difficult to manage headache syndromes.
Your Child & Adolescent Care Team

Our specialists – pediatric neurologists with expertise in childhood headache – work closely with patients and their primary care providers to develop individualized effective, long-term treatment plans.

We take a comprehensive approach in treating your child. In addition to pediatric neurologists, our care team includes pediatric psychologists, pediatric nurses and nurse practitioners, and pediatric social workers.

Depending on your child’s needs, we may also work with other types of specialists, such as neurosurgeons, otolaryngologists and ophthalmologists.

- We offer comprehensive assessment and treatment of headaches in children and adolescents in a multidisciplinary clinic.

- When necessary, we also offer short inpatient (hospital) stays for headache management.

Preparing for your visit

- Remember to bring important medical records, including a list of medications (current and past) and results of diagnostic tests to your child’s visit.

- If you have imaging, like MRI scans, you would like the provider to review, please send those to the clinic prior to your visit so that they can be uploaded into our system.

- On the first visit, you will meet with one of our headache medicine specialist neurologists who will obtain a detailed history, perform a careful examination, assess the cause of your child’s headaches, and offer treatment options.

- As UCSF is a major internationally known training center, your child may see physicians in specialty training (residents and fellows) who will be under the supervision of one of our faculty.

- At subsequent visits, your child’s provider will continue to treat and monitor your child’s condition and will also coordinate care with your child’s primary care provider.

Program Policies

- We ask that you notify us at least 48 hours prior to canceling or rescheduling an appointment. Any notification of less than 24 business hours is considered a no-show. Continued failure to make appointments or late cancellations may result in a loss of services in our specialty.

- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your appointment time. If you are more than 15 minutes late, we will have to reschedule your appointment.

- Please complete the New Patient Headache Forms, including medication list, prior to arrival to your child’s first appointment.

- Please avoid wearing scents/fragrances to your appointment.

- Your child must have a primary care provider (PCP) to be treated by the Headache Program. It is essential that we collaborate with him/her to deliver safe and effective care.

- In general, we are not able to complete disability application forms.

- We generally do not prescribe narcotic pain medication for headaches.

- The best way to communicate questions to providers is via MyChart. For scheduling needs, either phone or MyChart will generally work well. For urgent medical issues that require a same day response, please contact your primary care physician, or for emergencies, call 911.
The **UCSF Child & Adolescent Headache Program** is the first of its kind on the West Coast, providing comprehensive clinic and hospital care to relieve the most debilitating headaches in children and adolescents. In addition, the program conducts research, exploring the basic mechanisms of headache and treatments.

**UCSF Child & Adolescent Headache Program**

**Locations**

- **San Francisco**  
  Ron Conway Family Gateway Building  
  1825 Fourth St., 5th Floor, 5A  
  San Francisco, CA 94158

- **Los Gatos**  
  14880 Los Gatos Blvd,  
  Los Gatos CA 95032  
  Phone: 415-502-1914  
  Fax: 415-353-2400