Headache Today - An Update by 21 Experts

Research and
Clinical Studies in Headache

Vol. 6

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Symposium on Headache of the World Federation of Neurology Committee on
Headache and Migraine, Amsterdam, September 13, 1977

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M. Critchley, London

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Research and Clinical Studies in Headache
An International Review

Vol. 4: Pathophysiologic, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Aspects of Headache

Vol. 5: Epidemiology and Non-Drug Treatment of Head Pain
Ed. M.E. Granger North Caldwell, N.J.
Contents

Preface ............. VII
Acknowledgement ........... VIII

Marshall, J. (London): Cerebral Blood Flow in Migraine without Headache .... 1
Smooth Muscle ............. 6
Lance, J.W.; Spira, P.J.; Mylecharane, E.J.; Lord, G.D.A., and Duckworth,
J.W. (Sydney): Evaluation of Drugs Applicable to Treatment of
Migraine in the Cranial Circulation of the Monkey ............ 13
Sicuteri, F.; Fanciullacci, M., and Michelacci, S. (Florence): Decentralization
Supersensitivity in Headache and Central Panalgesia ............ 19
Dalessio, D.J.; Otis, S., and Smith, R. (La Jolla, Calif.): Vasomotor Phenomena,
Platelet Antagonism and Migraine Therapy ............ 34
Sjaastad, O. (Oslo): Pathogenesis of the Cluster Headache Syndrome .............. 53
Sandler, M. (London): Implications of the Platelet Monoamine Oxidase Deficit during Migraine Attacks .............. 65
Saxena, P.R. (Rotterdam): Arteriovenous Shunting and Migraine .............. 89

Contents V

Graffenried, B.v. and Hill, R.C. (Basel): Headache as a Model for Testing Mild Analgesics .............. 103
Anthony, M. (Sydney): Role of Individual Free Fatty Acids in Migraine .............. 110
Kugler, J. and Laub, M. (Munich): Headache Determination by Meteorotropic Influences .............. 117
Ziegler, D.K.; Rhodes, R.J., and Hassanein, R.S. (Kansas City, Kans.): Association of Psychological Measurements of Anxiety and Depression with Headache History in a Non-Clinic Population .............. 123
Masland, W.S.; Friedman, P., and Buchsbaum, H.W. (Tucson, Ariz.): Computerized Axial Tomography of Migraine .............. 136
Graham, J.R.; Bana, D., and Yap, . (Boston, Mass.): Headache, Hypertension and Renal Disease .............. 147
Appenzeller, O. (Albuquerque, N. Mex.): Reflex Vasomotor Function: Clinical and Experimental Studies in Migraine .............. 160
Mikropoulos, H.E. (Athens): Toleration and Effectiveness of Pizotifen in Migraine .............. 167

Preface

The 11th World Congress of Neurology was held in Amsterdam from September 11th through September 16th, 1977. On September 13th, as part of that Congress, the World Federation of Neurology Research Committee on Headache and Migraine conducted a symposium. This volume is composed of the
papers which were presented at that symposium together with the discussions that followed. The various authors have adapted their verbal presentations in order to conform to the format of this series, Research and Clinical Studies in Headache.

In contrast to volume 5 which dealt with two specific aspects of headache, the present volume covers a much wider range. It considers such theories as the possible role of central and peripheral supersensitivity to monoamines in idiopathic headache, including migraine; the cerebral vasospasm, vasodilatation and pain of headache being secondary responses to the same pharmacologically active humoral agent which is responsible for the decrease in platelet MAO activity and which might belong to the thromboxane family; the rise in plasma levels of linoleic acid possibly being responsible for the platelet serotonin release observed during a migraine attack and, at the same time, possibly serving as a source of increased synthesis of prostaglandin E1l, which has a powerful vasodilating effect. Other subjects discussed are the significance of ‘dialysis headache’; the ability of certain weather phases to trigger headache; the use of the CAT scan in migraine patients; the association between anxiety and depression and headache; observations at a migraine clinic in a major city; and the suggested use of substances which interfere with platelet aggregation for the prophylaxis of migraine.

We hope that this volume will add to the reader’s existing knowledge and understanding of headache, indicate current avenues of investigation and stimulate interest in future headache research. We wish to thank the authors for their contributions and cooperation and Mrs. Carol Patterson for typing the manuscripts prior to publication.

Mary E. Granger, Arnold P. Friedman and MacDonald Critchley

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