### AGENTS FOR ACUTE TREATMENT

#### INDICATIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS (CI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
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<tr>
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#### SIDE EFFECTS

- **Naratriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Rizatriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Sumatriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Zolmitriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

#### DRUG (DI) INTERACTIONS

- **Naratriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Rizatriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Sumatriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Zolmitriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

#### COMMENTS

- **Naratriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Rizatriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
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- **Sumatriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

- **Zolmitriptan**: 
  - **Chest discomfort or tightness**
  - **Facial flushing, tingling & paresthesia**
  - **Nausea**
  - **Dizziness**

### DOSING

- **Naratriptan**: 
  - **6 doses**

- **Rizatriptan**: 
  - **6 doses**

- **Sumatriptan**: 
  - **6 doses**

- **Zolmitriptan**: 
  - **6 doses**

### NONSPECIFIC ANALGESICS

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<td>Amitriptyline</td>
<td>ELAVIL/generic (10, 25, 50, 75 mg tab)</td>
<td><strong>1st line esp. if associated depression, chronic pain, or tension-type headache</strong>&lt;br&gt;CI - severe cardiac, kidney, liver, prostate or thyroid disease; glaucoma, hypertension, weight gain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nortriptyline</td>
<td>AVENTYL/generic (10,25mg cap)</td>
<td><strong>Nortriptyline ~2x drowsiness, dry mouth &amp; weight gain than amitriptyline; but less evidence</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metoprolol</td>
<td>LOPRESOR/generic (25/50/100mg tab/SR 100,200mg)</td>
<td><strong>1st line</strong> esp. 1st line cardiovascular effects: dry dizziness, coldness of extremities, depression, impotence, sleep disturbance, bronchospasm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atenolol</td>
<td>(25,50,100mg tab)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Propranolol</td>
<td>INDERAL/generic (10,20,40,80,120,160mg tab; LA 60,80,120,160mg)</td>
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<td>Flunarizine</td>
<td>SIBELIUM (5mg cap)</td>
<td>Reduce frequency but little effect on intensity or duration&lt;br&gt;CI - CHF, arrhythmias, hypertension (pregnancy with flunarizine)</td>
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<td>Verapamil</td>
<td>ISOPTIN, others (120,180,240mg SR tab/cap)</td>
<td><strong>Caution: β-blockers, Parkinsons</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divalprox (DVA)</td>
<td>EPILIVAL/generic (125,250,500mg EC tab;1000mg/10ml ivial)</td>
<td><strong>1st line for severe migraine</strong> (↓ severity and duration) but little effect on mild-moderate attacks; useful for SSRI induced migraine &amp; prolonged atypical migraine aura&lt;br&gt;CI - liver disease&lt;br&gt;Caution: children → hepatotoxicity&lt;br&gt;Monitor: CBC, Platelets, LFT (Level 350-850 umol/l ~ trough)</td>
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<td>Lamotrigine</td>
<td>(LAMICTAL)</td>
<td><strong>Caution: children &amp; patients with history of suicidal ideation</strong>&lt;br&gt;↑ Toxicity of ergots with vasoconstriction/spasm</td>
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### ERGOTs

| Methysergide  | SANSET (2mg tab) | **3rd line - for prevention of severe recurrent migraine unresponsive to other agents (seldom used)**<br>CI - hypertension, cardiac, liver, kidney, lung & collagen diseases<br>● thrombophlebitis & pregnancy | | | **Serotonin-2 receptor antagonist**<br>Somnolence so begin low & dose at bedtime (ie 0.5mg hs) | | 20<br>44<br>(1mg tid) 69 |

### NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL AGENTS

- riboflavin (Vit B2) 400mg/day, magnesium 400-600mg/day, feverfew TANACET 125mg/d. **BOTOX injection** → effective (~5Mons) for some pts. L = dose for renal dysfunction
- **PROPHYLACTIC THERAPY should be considered if** migraines severe enough to impair quality of life or patient has ≥ 3 severe attacks per month which fail to respond to abortive therapy.
- **TIPS**<br> → use one prophylactic agent at a time<br> → **start low & titrate up**; once effective dose reached, continue for **minimum 3 month trial** to evaluate effectiveness (benefits usually seen after 1-2 months) → efficacy depends on withdrawal of analgesics causing rebound or chronic daily headache; if single agent ineffective, may try a **combination** (eg beta blocker + TCA); consider neuro consult if no response; **continuous effective therapy for 9-12 months; discontinue gradually to prevent rebound** → **Success of prophylaxis** considered to be in severity or frequency of headache by 50%
References: RxFiles – MIGRAINE AGENTS


Other sources:
14. Micromedix 2004