Migraine Therapy in the ED

Complete History & Physical Exam

Is the physical exam normal? Yes

Is the history consistent with primary headache? Yes

Proceed to headache treatment—no further diagnostic testing needed

All patients receive:
- IV fluids
- Decrease environmental stimuli
- Ascertain if and when a triptan was taken for this headache

Female patients:
- Obtain urine pregnancy test per policy

First line treatment:
Administer prochlorperazine with or without diphenhydramine*

*During prochlorperazine shortages treat with:
metoclopramide with or without diphenhydramine

Mild pain treatment, administer Acetaminophen per Nursing Standard Order

Assess response to treatment (Time Zero + 1 hour)

Moderate to severe

Second line treatment:
Administer ketorolac OR
Administer ketoprofen if NSAIDs have been administered (assure pregnancy test is negative)

Assess response to treatment (Time Zero + 1 hour)

Mild

Can the patient be discharged?

Moderate/Severe

Admit Patient
Consult Neurology
Off algorithm

Discharge Recommendations
Headache Action Plan and Follow Up

Other medications:

May use:
Dihydroergotamine (DHE)
Magnesium sulfate
SUMAtriptan

Do not use:
Glucoctocorticosteroids
Narcotics