

**Abbreviations (laboratory & radiology excluded):**  
pt. = patient

Migraine Therapy in the ED

Complete History & Physical Exam

Is the physical exam normal?

Evaluate and manage as indicated

Is the history consistent with primary headache?

Evaluate and manage as indicated

Proceed to headache treatment -- no further diagnostic testing needed

Is the pt's pain assessed to be >3?

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

Mild pain treatment, administer Acetaminophen per Nursing Standard Order

**First line treatment:**  
Administer prochlorperazine with or without diphenhydramine\*  
\*During prochlorperazine shortages treat with: metaclopramide with or without diphenhydramine

Assess response to treatment (Time Zero + 1 hour)

**Second Line Treatment:**  
Administer ketorolac OR  
Administer valproic acid if NSAIDs have been administered (assure pregnancy test is negative)

Assess response to treatment (Time Zero + 1 hour)

Can the pt be discharged?

Other medications:	
May use: Dihydroergotamine (DHE) Magnesium sulfate SUMatriptan	Do not use: Glucorticosteroids Narcotics

Admit Patient  
Consult Neurology  
Off Algorithm

Discharge Recommendations  
Headache Action Plan and Follow Up

This care process model/clinical practice guideline is meant as a guide for the healthcare provider, does not establish a standard of care, and is not a substitute for medical judgment which should be applied based upon the individual circumstances and clinical condition of the patient.