Headaches in pregnancy and postpartum: ACOG clinical practice guideline no. 3.

Guideline ID: 2727 Published: 2022 May 1

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Headaches in pregnancy and postpartum: ACOG clinical practice guideline no. 3. Obstet Gynecol. 2022 May 1;139(5):944-972. [179 references] PubMed

View Original Guideline

Overview

Guideline Objective

To provide updated evidence-based recommendations for the evaluation and treatment of primary and secondary headaches in pregnancy and postpartum

Patient Population

Pregnant and postpartum patients with a history of or experiencing primary or new secondary headaches

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Prevention of primary headache in individuals who are pregnant or attempting to become pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding
- Evaluation for symptomatic patients presenting with primary and secondary headaches during pregnancy
- Guidance on treatment options during pregnancy and lactation, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), acetaminophen, combination products containing butalbital, metoclopramide alone or in combination with diphenhydramine, prednisolone, triptans, and ergot alkaloids
- Management of preeclampsia, headache secondary to dural puncture, and central venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)

Note: Full recommendation statements have not been provided because this guideline does not meet EGT's systematic review of the evidence criteria. Refer to the original guideline for more information.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

- Correction; 2022 Aug.
- Appendix A. Literature Search Strategy.
- Appendix B. PRISMA Diagram.
- Appendix C. Evidence Tables.

- Management of Primary Headaches in Pregnancy. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 234; 2020 Nov.
- Clinical Practice Guideline Methodology; 2021 Sep.

Implementation Tools

No implementation tools available.

Patient Education

No patient education materials available.

Disclaimer

If you desire to use content from the original clinical practice guideline cited herein, you must contact the guideline developer directly to obtain permission rights.

ECRI's Guideline Profiles are designed to provide information and assist decision-making. Variations in practice will inevitably, and appropriately, occur when clinicians take into account the needs and preferences of individual patients, available resources, and limitations unique to an institution or type of practice. Every healthcare professional using these Guideline Profiles is responsible for evaluating the appropriateness of applying them in a clinical setting.

Copyright © 2025 ECRI