

Provider Led Entity

CDI Quality Institute AUC Questions: Headache

7/25/17

Patient/Problem: Appropriateness of advanced imaging procedures in patients with the following clinical presentations:

- Chronic headache (including typical migraine or tension headaches) without neurological signs or symptoms;
- Headache increasing in severity or frequency or with a pattern change;
- Headache with neurologic signs, symptoms or seizures;
- Sudden onset of severe headache (worst headache ever);
- Headache with papilledema;
- New headache with systemic symptoms, suspected encephalitis or suspected meningitis;
- New headache or change in headaches in a cancer patient or immunocompromised patient;
- Trigeminal autonomic cephalgias/Cluster headache;
- New headache with suspected temporal arteritis (patient >50 years of age, elevated ESR and temporal tenderness);
- Positional/orthostatic headache;
- Headache associated with cough, exertion or sexual activity; and
- Subacute post-traumatic headache.

For patients > 18 years of age, in a community outpatient setting, without pregnancy, and for the purposes of diagnosis.

Interventions: Advanced testing – MRI, MRI with and w/o IV contrast, CT, CT with and w/o IV contrast, MRA with and w/o IV contrast, MRA without IV contrast, CTA with IV contrast

Comparison: Gold standard (Image findings, biopsy results, surgical findings, angiographic findings or patient outcome)

Outcome: Diagnostic accuracy, effect on patient management, and/or patient outcome.

Exclusions:

- Cervicogenic headache;
- Headache associated with sinusitis or mastoiditis;
- Headache of oromaxillofacial (TMJ, odontogenic) origin;
- Headache of suspected orbital or periorbital origin including suspected acute closed angle glaucoma;
- Headache associated with pregnancy; and
- Headache with acute trauma.