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Version Control

(Only last 3 versions, earlier versions can be found in the appropriate Archive directory for the document)

DATE	CHANGE	CHANGED BY
21.03.16	Reviewed, no changes	SMcD
06.06.19	Reviewed, no changes	SMcD
04.04.23	Reviewed, Minor changes to flow chart and NICE Guidelines added to Other Ref	FW

Introduction

Headache is a very common symptom. The flow chart attached is an aide memoire only. Headaches can be considered to be **Primary** (such as migraine, cluster headache, tension etc.) or **Secondary** (i.e. a new headache due to another lesion capable of causing the sensation such as a cerebral tumour). Self evidently, primary headache is much more common.

In the OOH environment, management of the patient with headache depends on a careful history with examination where appropriate. Treatment should follow recognised guidelines such as in GP notebook etc. Analgesics should be as simple as possible (e.g. paracetamol based) and prescribed in appropriate quantities for the OOH environment. Safety-netting in case of change or worsening should be documented. Referral (or not) either to the GP for follow-up or urgent secondary care depends on the individual clinical picture.

