

## Peter Hallas

Sir,

I have recently seen three patients with headache who independently reported a peculiar phenomenon. As a prodrome to headache, they experienced unilateral dilatation of the veins of the arm and hand. Two of the patients had migraine, and one patient was experiencing tension-type headache. In the two patients with migraine, the vasodilatation was reported to be in the arm and hand

ipsilateral to the hemicranial pain. Neurological examination revealed no abnormalities and there was no venous vasodilatation at the time of presentation. In the patient with tension-type headache, there were extreme tension and tenderness in the muscles of the affected extremity, which may explain the vasodilatation in this patient.

I have not been able to find any previous descriptions of patients with this constellation of migraine and ipsilateral vasodilatation in an extremity, although abnormalities in the vascular responses in the hands of migraine patients have been measured during cold stimulus in the laboratory [1]. To better describe this phenomenon, I kindly ask clinicians

who have treated similar patients or have additional information on the phenomenon to contact me.

## Reference

1. Downey JA, Frewin DB (1972) Vascular responses in the hands of patients suffering from migraine. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 35:258–263

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The readers are invited to send their reply, make their hypotheses and describe similar experiences in clinical practice. A debate on such new topics may contribute to clarifying unsolved questions about unusual clinical aspects in headache syndromes.

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