

MEETING ABSTRACT

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# EHMTI-0049. Headache, migraine and epileptic seizures

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There are different possible temporal associations between epileptic seizures and headache attacks which have given rise to unclear or controversial terminologies. Migraine and epilepsy have common pathophysiological mechanisms and share essential and defining attributes which distinguish them from other common neurological disorders. They are both characterized by paroxysmal symptoms and episodic disorders. Occipital lobe is the brain structure most responsible for development of migraine and occipital lobe epilepsies. Both are characterized by visual symptoms followed by headache and other autonomic symptoms. Recognition of headache as an epileptic manifestation per se still represents a challenge.

The classification of the International League Against Epilepsy does not refer to this type of disorder, while the International Classification of Headache Disorders defines kinds of association – migraine triggered seizures, hemiplegic migraine and post ictal headache.

Epileptic headache or ictal epileptic headache is an epileptic manifestation per se, with onset and cessation if isolated, coinciding with the EEG pattern of an epileptic seizure. EH maybe followed by other epileptic manifestation /motor/ sensory/ autonomic/.

Hemicrania epileptica is a very rare variant. Post ictal or pre ictal headache – when headache is followed during or short time after typical epileptic seizures. Migraine attack maybe with or without aura, and seizure triggering role is still a subject of debate.

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