MIGRAINOUS CORPALGIA: BODY PAIN AND ALLODYNIA ASSOCIATED WITH MIGRAINE ATTACKS

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Objective: Migraine symptoms include more than head pain. For instance, cephalic and extra-cephalic allodynia is currently recognized as a common sign of sensitization during migraine episodes. However, the occurrence of non-headache spontaneous pain in association with migraine attacks has not been explored.

Methods: Here we describe the clinical features of three migraine patients presenting with recurrent attacks of extra-cephalic pain in connection to headache episodes.

Results: A 41 year-old woman with migraine with aura since age 27, had been having attacks of face and body pain along with migraine episodes since age 30. Pain was felt in different anatomical regions on either side, more commonly on the right, and usually ipsi-lateral to head pain. Body pain started before, during or after migraine headache, and could last from minutes to days. A 39 year-old woman with right-sided migraine with aura since age 15, had been feeling pain in her right extremities for 30-60 min prior to most headache attacks since age 34. Finally, a 30 year-old woman with left-sided migraine without aura since age 23, had been perceiving pain in her left upper limb for 24-48 h prior to most headache attacks from migraine onset. All patients reported symptoms of allodynia, and showed evidence of mechanical allodynia over the painful areas.

Conclusions: For the first time we have described spontaneous body pain associated with migraine attacks. Together with allodynia, this can be considered a consequence of sensitization. Migraine may be not only a headache disorder but also a more generalized pain disorder.