

European Headache Federation

# EHF NEWS



[www.ehf-org.org](http://www.ehf-org.org)

## An e-group on Cervicogenic Headache

Cervicogenic headache is a syndrome characterized by chronic hemicranial pain that is referred to the head from either bony structures or soft tissues of the neck. Diagnostic criteria have been established for cervicogenic headache by International Headache Society (IHS) and Cervicogenic Headache International Study Group (CHISG), but its presenting characteristics occasionally may be difficult to distinguish from primary headache disorders



such as migraine, tension-type headache, or hemicrania continua. The creation of a web forum for discussion is relevant to spread the knowledge and create interest on this issue. Moreover, the objective of this e-group is to improve communication between the Cervicogenic Headache International Study Group (CHISG)

members, gather useful information together and facilitate the exchange of files.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/CHISG/>

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**EHF News is open to host contributions and proposals from the readers. E-mail your suggestion to: [neuronet@libero.it](mailto:neuronet@libero.it)**

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## Triptans versus ergots: new data

Oral ergotamine in combination with other agents such caffeine is used for the acute treatment of migraine but the introduction of triptans, 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonist, have more pharmacologic properties and their development has been hailed as a major advance in the acute treatment of migraine.

A randomized, multicenter, double-blind, crossover clinical

trial including 272 patients was recently conducted in Spain to assess in migraineur patients the efficacy and safety of almotriptan 12.5 mg versus ergotamine 2 mg-caffeine 200 mg in two consecutive migraine attacks and published in the European Journal of Neurology (Láinez MJA et al. Crossover, double-blind clinical trial comparing almotriptan and ergotamine

plus caffeine for acute migraine therapy. Eur J Neurol 2007;14:269-75).

The results show that a significantly higher percentage of patients on almotriptan treatment were pain free at 2 hours (p<0.05) and experienced pain relief at two hours (p<0.01) when compared to ergotamine-caffeine treated patients. Rates for both

## Headache in Children: an international event in Turkey

The congress program is designed to cover both the newest advances in the basic and clinical aspect of headache in children and adolescents and collaborates regional clinical experiments in this area.

It is a great pleasure to invite you to participate in the VII International Congress on Headache in Children and Adolescents which is scheduled to take place under the auspices of the International Headache Society in Istanbul, May 17 to 21, 2008.

The congress program is designed to cover both the newest advances in the basic and clinical aspect of headache in children and adolescents and collaborates regional clinical experiments in this area. Participants of the teaching course will gain better understanding

of the most up-to-date information on the pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of headache in young patients. The scientific program will include invited lectures, panel discussions, poster and oral presentations. Authors of selected posters will be invited to present their findings also orally in the plenum and the best presentation will be awarded.

During the congress we will offer social events to open new windows in your minds regarding Türkiye. We invite to you Istanbul, a unique city where east meets west

and it is the bridge between Europe and Asia thriving metropolis of 12 million people-exotic yet distinctively western. You may also see here traditions of Turkish hospitality combined to make Istanbul a perfect meeting city, one that will impress treasured and lasting memories.

We are looking forward to welcome you to the VII International Congress on Headache in Children and Adolescents in Istanbul and wish you unforgettable times.

*Aynur Özge,  
Istanbul*

## Enrico Greppi Award 2008

The Italian Society for the Study of Headaches (SISC) announces the competition of the biennial Enrico Greppi Award 2008. The award will be granted to the best unpublished original paper dealing with epidemiological, genetic, pathophysiological or therapeutic aspects of headache. The prize amounts to € 5.000 and is open to researchers from all nationalities. The papers must be sub-

mitted in accordance with the editorial instructions of *The Journal of Headache and Pain*. The winning article will be published *ex officio* in *The Journal of Headache and Pain* within three months from the Award presentation. The remaining papers are considered as submitted to *The Journal of Headache and Pain* and may be published after undergoing the peer-reviewing process. The Award is endorsed by the

European Headache Federation (EHF) and the winner is invited to present the paper at the European Headache and Migraine Trust International Congress 2008 Congress (EHMTIC), to be held in London, U.K. 4-7 September 2008.

Manuscripts should be sent by e-mail to the President of SISC at [sisc@sisc.it](mailto:sisc@sisc.it) not later than 30 May 2008.

*The editorial staff*





Information:

E-MAIL: [enquiries@ehmtcongress2008.com](mailto:enquiries@ehmtcongress2008.com)

website: [www.ehmtcongress2008.com](http://www.ehmtcongress2008.com)

## The European Headache and Migraine Trust International Congress 2008

### Welcome Message

Welcome to the first European Headache and Migraine Trust International Congress 2008.

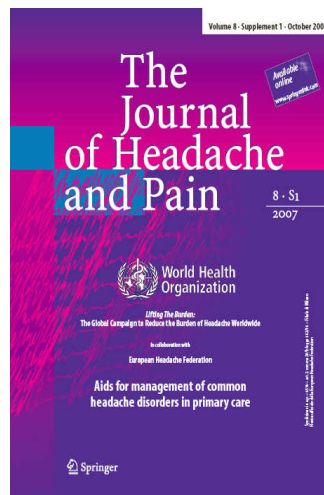
We are honoured to chair the first joint bi-annual congress of the Migraine Trust and the European Headache Federation. The European Headache and Migraine Trust International Congress (EHMTIC) 2008 is a united effort which reflects our wish to provide all participants with a unique opportunity to enjoy a 4 day programme covering new therapies, developments and research and our interest in the ongoing education of both sufferers and professionals in the headache and migraine field. We will be delivering a joint programme of lectures which will provide a truly first class Congress.

We very much hope you will be able to join us at this meeting which will be taking place at the Novotel London West, Hotel and Convention Centre, London, UK; from Thursday 4 September to Sunday 7 September 2008.

We look forward to welcoming you to our first joint congress in London in September 2008.

Prof. P.J. Goadsby Prof H-C Diener  
International Scientific Advisory Committee Joint Chairmen

## The Journal of Headache and Pain



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*Purpose: EHF Newsletter, a European Headache Federation publication, is dedicated to increasing physicians' awareness by educating and informing them as to what is going on in the field of headache in Europe.*

*This newsletter seeks to provide timely and accurate information from the most knowledgeable sources. The newsletter is mailed to EHF members, national drug companies and medical journals in line with information given by board members. The views expressed in the articles in EHF News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the EHF and the Publisher.*

**Questo periodico e' associato alla  
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## What's on...



7th-10th May 2008,  
Rome, Italy

VII Congress European Federation of  
Internal Medicine

Information:

[www.aristea.com/efim2008](http://www.aristea.com/efim2008)

17th-21th May 2008,  
Istanbul, Turkey

VII International Congress on Headache  
in Children and Adolescents

Information: [www.ichca7.org](http://www.ichca7.org)

[congress@topkon.com](mailto:congress@topkon.com)

29th-31st May 2008,  
Baku, Azerbaijan

The European Headache Summer  
School

Information:

[HEAE@glo.regionh.dk](mailto:HEAE@glo.regionh.dk)

[ashina@dadlnet.dk](mailto:ashina@dadlnet.dk)

4th-7th September 2008,  
London, United Kingdom

European Headache and Migraine Trust  
International Congress 2008

Information:

[www.ehmtcongress2008.com](http://www.ehmtcongress2008.com)

18th-20th September 2008,  
Zürich, Switzerland

Neuroscience meets clinic. An update  
on headache and orofacial pain  
European Academy of Craniomandibular  
Disorders (EACD)

Information:

[www.eacmd.org](http://www.eacmd.org)

## Triptans versus ergots: new data

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sustained pain free and SNAE (sustained pain free plus no adverse events) were significantly higher with almotriptan 12.5 mg therapy compared with ergotamine 2 mg-caffeine 200 mg treatment arm ( $p < 0.05$ ). Almotriptan was also associated with a significantly lower use of rescue medication. Compared with ergotamine, almotriptan was associated with a statistically significant lower rate of photophobia at 90', phonophobia at 60, 90 and 120 min, and nausea and vomiting at 90 and 120 min. Only 16 patients reported adverse events in the almotriptan group vs 27 in the ergotamine-caffeine group. Most adverse events were mild-to-moderate and did not result in treatment-related discontinuations.

Additionally, to evaluate the cost efficacy of the almotriptan treatment as compared to ergotamine-caffeine the course of a migraine attack over 24 hours was modelled with a decision tree, where patients could end in one of the following states: no relief, 24 hours sustained relief, initial relief with resolved recurrence and initial relief with unresolved recurrence and it was found that almotriptan leads to incremental health benefits, it is cost saving from the societal point of view and can be considered cost effective from the Spanish National Health Service perspective. The results of this pharmacoeconomic model were presented in the last EFNS Congress held from 25-28 August 2007 in Brussels.