

Migraine in children aged 6 years and older

Drug	Dose	Comments
Step 1: IV sparing		
Ondansetron	15 - 30 kg: 4 mg PO x 1 > 30 kg: 8 mg PO x 1	For nausea/vomiting. Oral disintegrating tablet (ODT) preferred.
Ibuprofen	10 mg/kg/dose, MAX 600 mg PO x 1	
Triptan	Rizatriptan ODT < 40 kg: 5 mg PO x 1 ≥ 40 kg: 10 mg PO x 1	FDA approved for ≥ 6 years of age. Not approved by Health Canada if < 18 years of age. Do not use within 24 hours of an ergotamine preparation or a different triptan. Use if presenting within 2 hrs of onset of headache.
	Zolmitriptan Nasal Spray Age greater than or equal to 12 years Initial dose: 2.5 - 5 mg intranasal May repeat dose in 2 hrs. MAX daily dose 10 mg/day.	FDA approved for ≥ 12 years of age. Not approved by Health Canada if < 18 years of age. Do not use within 24 hours of an ergotamine preparation or a different triptan. Use if presenting within 2 hrs of onset of headache.
	Sumatriptan Nasal Spray Age greater than or equal to 12 years 5, 10 or 20 mg intranasal x 1	10 mg nasal spray approved by European Medicines Agency for > 12 years of age. Not approved by Health Canada if < 18 years of age. Do not use within 24 hours of an ergotamine preparation or a different triptan. Use if presenting within 2 hrs of onset of headache.
Lidocaine intranasal	20 mg intranasal x 1	Use lidocaine 2% (20 mg = 1 mL) or 4% (20 mg = 0.5 mL) topical solution. Give 50% of dose in each nostril. Administer using nasal mucosal atomizer device.
Step 2: IV route		
Metoclopramide	0.15 mg/kg/dose (MAX 10 mg/dose) IV x 1	Extrapyramidal side effects (acute dystonic reaction, akathisia) are rare.
Ketorolac	0.5 mg/kg/dose (MAX 30 mg/dose) IV x 1	Do not give within 4 hours of other NSAIDs.
Step 3: Rescue options		
Valproic acid	20 mg/kg/dose (MAX 1000 mg/dose) IV x 1	Must have negative pregnancy test prior to administration. Potential efficacy in refractory migraine. Available through Health Canada Special Access Program (SAP).
Propofol (subanesthetic dose)	0.25 mg/kg/dose (MAX 30 mg/dose) IV push q5min, MAX 5 doses	Requires continuous cardiorespiratory and pulse oximetry monitoring, and MD at bedside during medication administration. Ensure airway equipment available in patient room.
Acute dystonic reaction		
Diphenhydramine	1 mg/kg/dose (MAX 50 mg/dose) IV q6h PRN	Rescue treatment for dystonic reaction. Does not prevent dystonic reaction.

Refer to [TREKK's Migraine Bottom Line Recommendations](#) for a summary of recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of migraine.

Scan or click the QR code to learn more and to see a full list of references and development team members



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