

**THE ICHD-II DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA ARE USEFUL AND NECESSARY FOR CLINICIANS AND RESEARCHERS
- NO**

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The International Headache Society classification of primary headaches – the ICHD-II - is almost universally accepted by researchers and clinicians. It is highly unlikely that reputable journals will accept submissions for publication if the cohorts have not been selected strictly according to the ICHD-II. Likewise, in the clinical setting the appropriate treatment is prescribed according to how the patient's headache is classified. But how reliable is the ICHD-II? As it does not appear to be based on data, its scientific validity is questionable. If indeed it cannot be scientifically validated, then the results of research based on the ICHD-II would be inaccurate. The practical implications of this are that the research data on the efficacy of migraine drugs may be compromised. Patients diagnosed according to a classification that is not supported by scientific evidence may also be given the incorrect treatment.