

NEW DAILY PERSISTENT HEADACHE IS A PRIMARY HEADACHE DISORDER – NO

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New daily persistent headache (NDPH) is a category of headache disorder first termed by Vanast in 1986. Vanast reported a case series of 45 patients with no prior history of headaches who abruptly developed daily headaches which largely abated spontaneously over the course of two years. These patients often had headaches with migrainous features and were predominantly women. Since Vanast's report, several case series have appeared in the literature with patients identified largely on the basis of the onset of continuous daily headaches from an identifiable day of onset. There is considerable confusion in the literature regarding the presence of migrainous features in NDPH. ICHD-2 diagnostic criteria essentially exclude such features, whereas most case series include patients with them. Many triggering or antecedent conditions have been raised as causes for so-called secondary NDPH, but the definition of primary NDPH remains elusive. Until more thorough phenotyping is available for patients reporting acute onset daily headaches, it will be preferable to adopt a position such as that of Goadsby that NDPH is a syndromic category, akin to chronic daily headache, rather than as a single primary headache disorder.