

## EVALUATION OF HEADACHE IN CHILDREN

Deniz Yılmaz<sup>2</sup>, **Didem Gökurt**<sup>1</sup>, Aslı Çelebi Tayfur<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Neurology, Polatlı Duatepe Hospital ,, Turkey*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Child Neurology, Kecioren Education Hospital, Turkey*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Child Nephrology, Kecioren Education Hospital, Turkey*

[dayilmaz2002@yahoo.com](mailto:dayilmaz2002@yahoo.com)

### Objective

Although the majority of headaches are benign in children, they are still frightening for parents. The aim of this study was to determine headache types, associated symptoms, incidence of various triggers and the necessity of brain imaging techniques.

### Material and Methods

This study was performed on 3-17 year-old children with headaches from November 2014 to January 2015 who presented at a pediatric neurology clinic in Keçiören Education Hospital. The criteria defined by International Headache Society were used to classify the headache types.

### Results

One hundred patients were enrolled in this prospective study, 59 girls and 41 boys. The mean age on admission was  $12.835 \pm 3.2084$  years. The duration of headache was more than 2 years in 31% of patients. The types of headaches were comprised as follows: 58 cases of migraines, 26 cases of tension-type headaches, 15 cases of secondary headaches. Family history was present in 37 patients (44%) with primary headache. Six patients had cerebral magnetic resonance abnormalities.

### Conclusion

Headache is a very common complaint in children. The evaluation should include not only detailed history of children but also detailed general and neurological examinations. Brain imaging techniques are of limited value in the routine evaluation of headache.