

Episodic vertigo can be a manifestation of migraine, at times, unaccompanied by headache

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The manifestations of migraine-associated vertigo are quite varied and may include episodic true vertigo, positional vertigo, constant imbalance, movement-associated disequilibrium. Symptoms can occur before the onset of headache, during a headache, or, as is most common, during a headache-free interval. Consequently, many patients who experience migraines have vertigo or dizziness as the main symptom rather than headache. Although the definition of migraine-related vertigo and the continuum of the symptom complex remains poorly defined, the relationship is clearly more than a chance association. The clinical presentation of vestibular symptoms that often correlate with migraine includes—but is not limited to—dizziness, motion intolerance with respect to head, eyes, and/or body, spontaneous vertigo attacks (often accompanied by nausea and vomiting); diminished eye focus with photosensitivity; sound sensitivity and tinnitus; balance loss and ataxia, cervicgia (neck pain) with associated muscle spasms in the upper cervical spine musculature. While migraine is often associated with benign recurrent vertigo of adults or paroxysmal vertigo of childhood, some migraine patients also present with true benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) even after the migraine headache event has ceased. This is thought to be caused by a combination of vascular events along with an alteration of neural activity associated with the migraine event. Verapamil and amitriptyline are particularly useful because of their anticholinergic properties may help control vertigo independently of whether they are useful for migraine.