Medication overuse headache (moh) can be treated with preventive medications without detoxification. - Yes

J. Schim

The Headache Center, the Neurology Center of Southern California, USA

MOH is usually treated with detoxification from the offending agent first. There is evidence that preventive medications work regardless of detoxification. The relationship between medication overuse and headaches has been known for decades. Overuse of ergots was noted to be associated with a variety of ill effects, including increased headaches. However, not all individuals who overuse acute medications develop medication overuse headache. While there is evidence in favor of discontinuation of medication overuse to improve headache frequency, there is also evidence that instituting prevention therapy, even without educating the patient about medication overuse issues, can improve headache control. The mechanism of MOH is still unclear. Even without detoxification, headaches can improve with preventive medications alone.