

Pathology of the Nervous System with Considerations for the Physical Therapist: Headache

Course Description:

Headache is a common complaint in the history of clients receiving therapy. Chronic headaches affect about 20% of the population of the United States and can result in decreased function at work, home, or school. This course is designed to provide the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant with an understanding of the phenomenon of headache. It will include review of the definition, incidence, risk factors, pathology, clinical manifestations, and treatment implications for various types of headache including: migraine, cluster headache, muscle tension headache, posttraumatic headache syndromes, and postdural puncture headache. Each section is highlighted with special implications for the therapist with focus on the PT Preferred Practice Pattern.

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Course Objectives:

Course Participants will be able to:

A. Headache

1. Describe prevalence and impact of headache
2. Describe pain patterns associated with various types of headaches
3. Describe pathological conditions causing headache

B. Migraine

1. Define migraine
2. Describe incidence of migraine
3. Describe etiologic and risk factors associated with migraine
4. Describe pathogenesis of migraine
5. Describe clinical manifestations of migraine
6. Differentiate between various types of migraine
7. Describe treatment of migraine
8. Describe implications for the therapist based on PT Preferred Practice Patterns

C. Cluster Headache

1. Define cluster headache
2. Describe incidence of cluster headache
3. Describe pathogenesis of cluster headache
4. Describe clinical manifestations of cluster headache
5. Describe medical management of the cluster headache
6. Describe implications for the therapist based on PT Preferred Practice Patterns

D. Muscle Tension Headache

1. Define and describe incidence of muscle tension headache
2. Describe etiologic and risk factors for muscle tension headache
3. Describe pathogenesis for muscle tension headache
4. Describe clinical manifestations of muscle tension headache
5. Describe medical management of muscle tension headache
6. Describe implications for the therapist based on PT Preferred Practice Patterns

E. Posttraumatic Headache Syndromes

1. Define and identify risk factors for posttraumatic headache syndrome
2. Describe pathogenesis of posttraumatic headache syndrome
3. Describe clinical manifestations of posttraumatic headache syndrome
4. Describe implications for the therapist based on PT Preferred Practice Patterns

F. Describe postdural puncture headache

CEU Approvals:

For information on specific state approval of this course, refer to PT On-Line Courses "About State Approvals" page.