

Cluster headache

Cluster headache (CH) is included under section 3 - Trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias (TAC) of the International Headache Society (IHS) classification. It is one of the most frequent, painful, and disabling primary headaches.

AKA [histaminic migraine](#). Actually a neurovascular event, distinct from true [migraine](#).

Cluster headache belongs to a group of primary headache disorders, classified as the trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias or (TACs). Cluster headache is named after the demonstrated grouping of headache attacks occurring together (cluster).

[Cluster headaches](#) may also be known as [histamine headache](#), [red migraine](#), [Horton's headache](#), and cephalalgia or [sphenopalatine neuralgia](#).

Epidemiology

Male: female ratio is $\approx 5:1$. 25% of patients have a personal or family history of migraine. ¹⁾

Cluster headache (CH) is a primary headache disorder classified under Trigeminal Autonomic Cephalalgias (TACs) in the International Classification of Headache Disorders (ICHD), currently in its third edition (ICHD-3). Below is the classification and key features of cluster headache:

ICHD-3 Classification of Cluster Headache

1. Episodic Cluster Headache

Definition: Attacks occur in clusters lasting from 7 days to 1 year. Followed by a remission period of at least 3 months.

2. [Chronic Cluster Headache](#)

Definition: Attacks occur for more than 1 year without remission or with remission periods shorter than 3 months.

¹⁾

Kittrelle JP, Grouse DS, Seybold ME. Cluster Headache: Local Anesthetic Abortive Agents. Arch Neurol. 1985; 42:496-498

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Last update: **2024/11/25 08:36**



