

Clinical Manifestations of Headache in Children

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Headache is the most common manifestation of pain in childhood and is the most frequent reason for referral to a pediatric neurologist. It is important to recognize, diagnose, and treat the headaches which can often first present in childhood. Dealing with children with headaches, paying attention to the age of the child and the severity of the headache is very important. Irritability is a common manifestation of headache in infants. Exclusion of secondary headaches is mandatory in children and adults. Primary headaches are common in children and tension-type headache is the most common primary headache but migraines and its variant are common and familiar in pediatric age groups. For example; moderate to severe pulsating unilateral headache is characteristic for migraine. In this lecture, we explain characteristic clinical manifestations of common headache syndromes such as tension- type headache and migraine in children and adolescents.

Conclusion: Headache syndromes are the most common neurologic disorders in children. We need to be familiar with the clinical symptoms of headaches in different age groups of children for appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic approach.

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