

Overview of Medication Overuse Headache

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Medication overuse headache is a critical concept to understand when diagnosing difficult headache problems and deciding how to treat them. Prior to the interesting debate on this topic, I will discuss how MOH can confound diagnoses and sometimes prevent usually effective medications from working. Then I will discuss which medications are more likely to cause MOH and which are less so. Butalbital-containing medications appear to be the worst offenders and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications the least offenders, sometimes actually working as effective preventive medications when taken daily. In the debate you may hear about onabotulinumtoxinA and topiramate and whether or not they can be effective in patients who have MOH. Before concluding I will share my ideas on whether or not all patients with MOH require detoxification.

Dr. Alan M. Rapoport is a *Clinical Professor of Neurology* at The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, where he teaches medical students, neurology residents and fellows.

He is also the founder and Director-Emeritus of The New England Center for Headache, in Stamford, Connecticut. Board-certified in Neurology and Headache Medicine, he has co-authored more than 250 articles, chapters and posters on headache. He has lectured around the country and internationally to general physicians and headache specialists on all aspects of headache pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment and has appeared many times on national radio and television programs, such as *Today* and *Good Morning America*.

He is an editor of *Headache*, *CNS Drugs* and Editor in Chief of *Neurology Reviews*, and he reviews for many peer-reviewed journals such as *Cephalalgia*, *Neurology*, *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Headache*.

He has co-authored nine books on headache for patients, physicians, and nurses with Drs. Fred Sheftell and Stewart Tepper.

Dr. Rapoport has started a company with Dr. Rob Cowan, a Professor of Neurology at Stanford University, which specializes in evaluating medical histories on line to save time and money in the health care field and bring many more patients in contact with medical experts. This non-profit company, named Pro My Health, Inc, will launch in January 2013. It is currently on the web as a beta site at www.promyhealth.org.

Dr. Rapoport has served on the Board of Directors of the American Headache Society (AHS) and is the immediate past President of the Fairfield County Neurological Society, the Founding President of the Headache Cooperative of New England (HCNE), the Founding Director of the Headache Cooperative of the Pacific (HCOP) and until June 2011 was the Chairman of the Education and Membership Committee of the International Headache Society (IHS). He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Headache Society and in June 2011 was elected to the position of President-Elect of the IHS.