

Health Categories U.S. news World news **Politics Business** Entertainment **Sports Tech & science** Health Diet and nutrition Cold and flu Women's health Men's health Kids and parenting Sexual health Pet health Fitness Aging Heart health Cancer Mental health Health library Travel Weather Local news

Browse

Video

Photos

Community

Disable Fly-out

Marketplace

Credit Score \$0 at CreditReport.com

Blocking trigger points may stop cluster headaches

C REUTERS updated 7:06 p.m. ET Jan. 29, 2009

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Excessive sensitivity apparently plays a role in cluster headaches, and blocking the hypersensitive muscle trigger points with local anesthetic may be beneficial in treating the condition, according to results published in the journal Head & Face Medicine.

Cluster headaches cause sudden, severe pain, often centered in one eye. Though the headaches tend to be short, they run in cycles, which may cause several headaches in one day or every few days. Most people with cluster headaches experience pain-free periods of several weeks or

more between each headache cycle. About 10 percent of sufferers, however, experience chronic cycles, which can last a year or more.

Dr. Elena P. Calandre and colleagues from the University of Granada, Spain, conducted a study of 12 patients with cluster headache to see if trigger points could be identified, and if so, whether anesthetic injections at the trigger points were helpful.

Story continues below



Four of the subjects experienced episodic cluster headache and eight experienced chronic cluster headache. All were totally refractory to their current prescribed drug therapy.

Related stories

Neck, back pain tough to treat after longer leave

What's this?

Most popular

Most viewed Top rated Most e-mailed

Family: Octuplets' mother has 6 other children Police: Robber scared grandmother to death Witness: Man stabbed ex to reclaim implants Electronics giant NEC set to slash 20,000 jobs Illinois Senate ousts Blagojevich Most viewed on msnbc.com

Sponsored Links

Top Diet Pills of 2009 Which Diet Pills Work & Which Ones Don't? ConsumerBestDeals.com

Ultimate Weight Loss More Energy. More Weight Loss. As Seen On TV. Order Today

www.zantrex3.com

The Rachael Ray Diet

Find out how I lose 9lbs a week - Approved by Rachael Ray! www.oprahsdietresults.com

Lose 5 lbs. In 5 Days

Top 6 diet pills reviewed. Lose the weight fast. All Guaranteed. www.DietPillReviewCenter.com

"My Stomach is Flat"

I cut down 43 lbs of stomach fat in 3 months by obeying this rule.

MelorasWeightLoss.com

Resource guide



Get Your 2009 Credit Score

Scottrade \$7 Online Trade

Scottrade: \$7 online trades



Our rates vs. the others

Lintrepreneui

Find a business to start



Free info from top programs

Scottrade

\$7 online trades

Progressive

Get car insurance

Start a business

Entrepreneur.com

Online Degrees

Get free info now

Netflix

Try for Free

Shopping Deals

Coupon Offers!

Autos

via MSN Autos

At least one trigger point was found in every patient. In five of six patients, the researchers were able to stop a cluster headache attack in progress with an anesthetic injection. In six of seven patients, the injections were successful in preventing attacks.

When anesthetic injections were combined with preventative drug therapy, significant improvement was observed in seven of eight chronic headache patients.

In terms of adverse effects, one patient reported pain at the injection site. Rebound headache following injection was observed in four patients.

"As it is estimated that between 10 and 20 percent of cluster patients are refractory to treatment or develop resistance to it, the potential role of...trigger point blockade should not be underestimated," Calandre and



Movies delivered - Try free



http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28921041/



colleagues write.

"Trigger point injection is an easy to perform and well-tolerated therapy, its main drawback being that it is rarely wholly effective" when given alone, they note. "The combination of active trigger point (blockade) with prophylactic drug treatment in the treatment of refractory cluster headache remains a therapeutic option worthy to be investigated."

SOURCE: Head & Face Medicine, December 2008.

Copyright 2009 Reuters. Click for restrictions.

Email	Instant Message	F	Print
Discuss Story On Newsvine	Rate Story: View popular	Low a fter 0 ratings	High

Top msnbc.com stories	NBC News highlights		
Homelessness surges as funding	No jacket required: Obama's new style		
falters	Jobless in Seattle		
Family: Octuplets' mom has 6 other kids	When no one wants custody of mom Michelle Obama's beauty secrets		
Electronics giant NEC to cut			
20,000 jobs			
Obama: Street bonuses 'outrageous'	Lilly Ledbetter: 'I feel vindicated'		
Small government back as GOP			
maxim			

SPONSORED LINKS

Get listed here

Featuring	Today Nightly News Dateline Meet the Press MSNBC TV Newsweek	Alerts via	E-mail	RSS &
Categories	Top stories Local news U.S. World Politics Business Sports	IM	updates	feeds
	Entertainment Health Tech & science Travel Weather	Mobile	Podcasts	Widgets
About	About us Contact Site map Jobs Terms & conditions	headlines	1 0000313	Widgeto

© 2009 Microsoft MSN Privacy Legal Advertise



http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28921041/

