

Recommendations for MRI in Headache

Child Neurology Division at Children's National Medical Center

- Headaches for less than 6 months duration not responding to lifestyle changes and first line medications
- Headaches associated with abnormal neurologic exam findings, especially papilledema, nystagmus, gait or motor changes
- Absent family history of headache
- Headaches associated with substantial confusion or emesis
- Headaches that awaken a child from sleep repeatedly
- A family history or disorders that predispose child to central nervous system lesions such as brain tumors or cerebral aneurysms

Adapted from **Medina S, Pinter JD, Zurakowski D, et al. Radiology 1997;202:819–24**