EFFECT OF SEROTONIN IN MIGRAINE PATIENTS

Robert W. Kimball, Arnold P. Friedman, and Edward Vallejo

Neurology 1960;10:107-111

Little is known of the factors that predispose to migraine or the biochemical events that initiate the disturbances characteristic of this condition. Earlier studies by Marcussen and Wolff have shown that an initial phase of vasoconstriction is responsible for the prodromal symptoms, while the pain follows a marked distention of cranial vessels that are temporarily hypotonic. They also have presented certain evidence which presumably indicates that a pain threshold-lowering substance renders the distention of the large arteries painful. However, alteration in tone, lumen, and pain threshold of the arteries alone cannot explain the complex symptomatology of the migraine attack.

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Comment from Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN, Editor-in-Chief: A highly cited paper, this fundamental study examined the role of serotonin in migraine, anticipating by many years the advent of triptans.

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Effect of serotonin in migraine patients

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