

There's more to a migraine  
**than a headache.**



## There's more to a migraine than a headache.

For those who have to live with migraines, the headache may be the worst part of the condition. But it is by no means the only part.

Migraines can be broken down into 5 phases, which can be difficult to distinguish. You may experience more than 1 phase, but not necessarily all 5. Knowing what happens during each phase will help you better understand and manage your migraines.

### Prodrome

The first phase of migraine, prodrome, comes before the actual migraine attack. It can take place hours or days before a migraine. During prodrome, people often experience changes in mood, appetite, energy level, bowel habits, sight, and speech. Think of these symptoms as a series of warning signs that an attack is on the way; when you become aware of them, you can be ready to treat your migraine at the first sign of pain.

### Aura

Although it's mentioned often as a migraine symptom, aura actually occurs in only 15% of all cases, usually before an attack (although it can happen during a migraine, as well). Aura generally lasts anywhere from 15 minutes to 1 hour. During aura, people see stars, specks, zigzag lines, and/or flashing lights in geometric patterns. Some people experience blind spots. Less common are confusion, slurred speech, tingling, numbness, or weakness in the arms or legs.

## Headache

The actual headache phase of a migraine generally lasts several hours, although it can last as long as 3 days. Migraine headaches are typically marked by moderate to severe throbbing pain on one or both sides of the head, which may get worse when you move. Some people also feel pain or pressure in the back of the neck, face, eyes, or sinuses. Migraines may also include symptoms like nausea and sensitivity to light/sound. You probably won't experience all of these symptoms, however. And every attack is different.

## Termination/ Postdrome

The last 2 phases, termination and postdrome, occur at the end of a migraine and may overlap. These phases usually last from several hours to several days. As the pain subsides, it is common to feel drowsy, irritable, or nauseous. Many people feel as though they have a hangover — tired, sluggish, or even depressed. Some have trouble concentrating.

People often mistake the symptoms that they feel during the termination and postdrome phases for side effects of their migraine medicine. In fact, these may be symptoms of the migraine itself and should not keep you from taking your medicine. IMITREX has been shown in clinical studies to have a low incidence of drowsiness.

So when is the best time to take IMITREX? Early — take IMITREX at the first sign of migraine pain, when it is likely to be most effective.



\*\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT IMITREX®  
(sumatriptan succinate)\*\*\*

IMITREX Tablets are prescription medicine for the acute treatment of migraine attacks, with or without aura, in adults. You should not take IMITREX if you have certain types of heart disease, a history of stroke or TIAs, peripheral vascular disease, Raynaud syndrome, or blood pressure that is uncontrolled. If you have risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or are a smoker, you should be evaluated by your doctor before taking IMITREX. Very rarely, certain people, even some without heart disease, have had serious heart-related problems when taking IMITREX.

If you are currently taking other medications or if you are pregnant, nursing, or thinking about becoming pregnant, you should talk to your doctor before taking IMITREX.

Please see complete Prescribing Information for IMITREX Tablets.



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