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Observational Study

Migraine in Physicians and Final Year Medical Students: A Cross-sectional Insight into Prevalence, Self-awareness, and Knowledge in a Tertiary Care Centre of Pakistan

Migraine in Physicians of Pakistan.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND

Despite its high prevalence, migraine remains underdiagnosed worldwide. A significant reason is the knowledge gap in physicians regarding diagnostic criteria, clinical features, and other clinical aspects of migraine.

AIM

To measure the knowledge deficit in doctors and medical students and to assess the prevalence of migraine in the same population.

METHODS

An online questionnaire was developed and distributed among doctors and final year medical students on duty in various medical and surgical specialties of Allied and DHQ. Hospitals Faisalabad, between October 2018 to October 2019. Inclusion criteria were public practicing doctors who experience headaches, while those who never experienced headaches were excluded. Different questions assessed respondents on their knowledge of triggers, diagnosis, management, and prophylaxis of the migraine headache. They were asked to diagnose themselves using embedded ICHD-3 diagnostic criteria for different types of migraine. Graphs, Tables, and figures were made using Microsoft Office 2016 and Microsoft Visio, and data analysis was done in R Studio 1.4.

RESULTS

We had 213 respondents and 175 fulfilled inclusion criteria, with 99 (52%), 58 (30%), and 12 (6.3%) belonging to Specialties of Medicine, Surgery, and Others, respectively. Both genders were symmetrically represented (F:87 vs. M:88). 52 (Prevalence=24.4%) of our total respondents (213) were diagnosed with migraine, with 26 (50%) being aware of it. Females had higher prevalence among study participants ($n = 28$, 32.2%) compared to males ($n = 20$, 22.7%, $P = 0.19$). A majority (62%) of subjects never consulted any doctor

for their headache. Similarly, a majority (62%) either never heard or did not remember the diagnostic criteria of migraine. ¹ 38% falsely believed that having any type of aura is essential for diagnosing migraine. The consultation rate was 37% ($n = 65$), and migraineurs were significantly more likely to have consulted a doctor, a neurologist in particular ($P < 0.001$). Consulters and migraineurs fared better in the knowledge of diagnostic aspects of the disease than their counterparts. There was no statistical difference in other knowledge aspects between consulters vs. non-consulters and migraineurs vs. non-migraineurs.

CONCLUSION

Critical knowledge gaps exist between the physicians and medical students potentially contributing to the misdiagnosis and mismanagement of migraine cases.

Key Words: Migraine; Headache Disorders; Knowledge Study; Prevalence; Knowledge; Epidemiology; Public Health

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Core Tip: Despite its high prevalence, migraine remains under-diagnosed worldwide. A significant reason is the knowledge gap in physicians regarding diagnostic criteria, clinical features, and other clinical aspects of migraine. The primary objectives of this study were to measure the knowledge deficit in doctors and medical students and to assess the prevalence of migraine in the same population.

INTRODUCTION

Headache is the top neurological complaint of patients presenting to general practitioners and neurologists. Migraine headache, one of the commonest headaches, is the sixth most prevalent disease globally and the second largest cause of disability, affecting more than 1 billion people [1, 2]. Although not directly fatal, migraine results in considerable loss of work hours, productivity, and quality of life culminating in a health burden and a significant cost. In America alone, the annual expenditure on migraine exceeds 78 billion USD [3]. Despite being one of the top causes of morbidity, millions of migraine cases remain undiagnosed worldwide, leading to a preventable burden on the system [4]. This underdiagnosis has been attributed to lapses in physicians' knowledge and lack of patient consultation, besides various other factors [5, 6]. A recent study published in 2021 revealed several knowledge gaps in primary care providers concerning migraine diagnosis, with only 6.3% of physicians aware of migraine prevention guidelines [7]. Studies have elucidated a significantly higher prevalence of migraine in physicians, attributed to the better knowledge of diagnostic criteria and a variety of presentations of this headache [8]. Studies have also shown a specifically higher prevalence of migraine in headache specialists (53% compared to 19.3% in general practitioners), relating it to a better knowledge of the diagnostic criteria of migraine [9].

Prevention is the key management strategy for a significant subset of the population experiencing migraines, particularly those who cannot take abortive treatment. Preventive strategies, including drugs, indications of prophylaxis, and avoidance of triggers, constitute an essential piece of knowledge for managing physicians in this regard. Some of the triggers of migraines may not be commonly known by physicians, leading to incomplete medical advice and counseling. Studies have shown a significant difference in the discussion of migraine triggers (with the patients) among neurologists and other physicians (82% vs. 51%) [10]. Only a physician adequately equipped with proper knowledge of prevention and triggers can manage migraine patients properly with a comprehensive education of prevention strategies. Lack of awareness of

triggering factors among patients increases the frequency of otherwise avoidable exacerbations of migraine [11].

Pakistan's estimated 1-year prevalence of migraine (22.5%) is considerably higher than the global 1-year prevalence of 15% [12, 13]. Headache patients present in the outpatient settings of multiple specialties of our hospitals, including surgery. Junior doctors (including sub-interns, i.e., final year medical students) in Pakistan's public hospitals serve as the first contact with healthcare for most patients with headaches. Therefore, the knowledge, attitudes, and practices for the headache serve a pivotal role in the accurate and timely diagnosis and management of patients with headache syndromes, including migraine. Knowing the types of migraines and diagnostic criteria, and screening tools for some common types is essential for a correct diagnosis. Transient neurological disturbances usually in the form of visual or auditory sensory issues that precede migraine headaches are known as auras. Aura is not experienced by 60-80% of migraine patients leading to a diagnosis of Migraine Without Aura [14]. Worldwide, some studies recently have highlighted the gaps in physicians' knowledge regarding the diagnosis of migraine [5, 15, 16]. We hypothesize similar gaps exist in our clinical settings in Pakistan, viewing aura as an integral part of the diagnosis of migraine being one such gap in knowledge. It is imperative for physicians to be aware of migraine without aura as it constitutes more than 70% of migraine cases in Pakistan [17].

The aim of the study was to provide the first insight in the region into physicians' knowledge regarding the diagnosis and management of migraine. The primary objective of this study was to gauge the knowledge of physicians and final-year medical students regarding the triggers, diagnosis, management, and prevention of migraine in Pakistan. Secondary objectives included determining the awareness of their own migraine among migraineurs as well as estimating the point-prevalence of migraine among the physician population in Pakistan. Moreover, we also sought an assessment

of the attitudes of our respondents towards medical consult-seeking for their headaches and self-medication (without a medical consult).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design: A web-based 30-question anonymous questionnaire was developed consisting of simple multiple-choice (MCQ) as well as multiple choice-multiple response questions.

Participants: The questionnaire was distributed among doctors and final year medical students on duty in various medical and surgical specialties of Allied and DHQ Hospitals, the affiliated hospitals of Faisalabad Medical University (FMU). Participants were required to fill in the questionnaire in the presence of a team member to avoid misinterpretation of any question.

Inclusion Criteria and data collection: Inclusion criteria were physicians and final year medical students who experienced headaches. Private Practitioners and non-practicing doctors were excluded. The data was collected in the period between October 15th, 2018, to October 15th, 2019.

Tools and variables: Respondents were asked if they thought they had a migraine and were then assessed on their knowledge of the definition, triggers, and prophylaxis of the migraine headache utilizing various subjective and objective questions. The triggers of migraine and the list indications of prophylaxis of migraine were adopted from Kellman *et al* and American Headache Society Consensus statement, respectively [18, 19]. They were questioned about their knowledge of diagnostic criteria, prophylactic therapy, and migraine triggers. They were also asked to choose appropriate answers from a list of available triggers of migraine and indications and duration for prophylaxis. Distractors were introduced in the triggers and indications of prophylaxis checklists to assess better for recognition (shown in Figure 2 & 3). Migraineurs were further asked questions about their triggers, abortive and prophylactic therapy use and efficacy, medical consult seeking, and over-the-counter (OTC) drug use. **Diagnosis of migraine:** For diagnosis, ICHD-3 diagnostic criteria of Migraine with Aura, Migraine

without Aura, and Chronic Migraine were embedded in the questionnaire. Respondents were asked to self-diagnose by matching their symptoms to these criteria within the questionnaire. Migraine cases (migraineurs) were the respondents who chose any type of migraine after going through all the diagnostic criteria. Self-awareness of migraine was defined as the migraine cases who thought they had a migraine, while cases who answered 'no' or 'not sure' when asked if they had a migraine were termed unaware.

Sample size and sampling: A migraine prevalence of 30% in physicians was assumed (greater than general population migraine prevalence of 22.5% in Pakistan) and a sample size for a prevalence study was calculated for an estimated physician population of 100,000 with a Confidence interval level and precision of 95% and 6% respectively. Source Forge's free online sample size calculator was used (sampsiz.sourceforge.net). The sample size determined was 186 for the prevalence study.

Statistical analysis and reporting: Reliability testing of migraine awareness was performed with the correlation coefficient (κ) to assess agreement between those who think they have migraine (self-aware) and confirmed cases of migraine. The sensitivity and specificity of the self-awareness of migraine were calculated by comparing it with the final diagnosis. The prevalence of migraine was calculated among all the respondents, including the excluded ones, to assess the actual prevalence of the disease in the doctor and medical student population. Data analysis was run between groups using R version 1.4.1106, with additional package of epitools. Chi-square, Mann-Whitney, and Fisher's Exact tests were applied wherever applicable after tests of the normalcy of distribution (Shapiro-Wilk). Graphs, tables, and figures were made using Microsoft Office 2016 and Microsoft Visio. This study was reported in accordance with "The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology" (STROBE) guidelines [20].

RESULTS

Participant Characteristics: We distributed the questionnaire to a total of 275 subjects and managed to get a response from 213 of them, setting our response rate at 77.5%. One hundred ninety participants fulfilled the inclusion criteria. After the application of exclusion criteria, we were left with 175 participants. Among them, 39 were medical students, and the rest of them were doctors. Males and females were symmetrically represented, with 87 Females and 88 Males. The average age was 25.7 ± 4.1 years. Most of our subjects (56%, $n = 98$) belonged to the specialty of medicine and allied, 30% ($n = 51$) to surgery and allied, and 5% ($n = 9$) to others (including pathology, radiology, *etc.*). A majority (62.3%, $n = 109$) of our respondents never consulted anyone for the headaches. The basic characteristics and demographic data of participants are summarized in table 1.

Prevalence of Migraine: 48 (27.4%) of our 175 respondents were diagnosed with migraine using the questionnaire-embedded, self-diagnosis algorithm. This makes the total prevalence of migraine in our sample of physicians and medical students 24.4%. Females, as expected, had higher prevalence ($n = 28$, 32.2%) compared to males ($n = 20$, 22.7%) among the final sample.

Awareness of Migraine: Only 21 (43.8%) of our 48 migraineurs were fully aware of their disease before the application of the embedded criteria, while 8 (16.7%) and 19 (39.6%) were completely unaware and 'not sure' respectively. Similarly, out of 127 the non-migraineurs, 126 correctly thought they did not have a migraine. This makes the sensitivity and specificity of this self-awareness 43.8% and 99.2%, respectively. The correlation coefficient Cohen's kappa between self-awareness and migraine diagnosis was 0.52, showing a moderate level of association. The physician's diagnosis of migraine had similar sensitivity (37.5%), specificity (97.6%), and kappa correlation coefficient values (0.43).

Knowledge of Migraine: A major proportion of participants (36.7%) erroneously believed that having any type of aura is essential for diagnosing migraine (Figure 1). Almost half of the respondents ($n = 85$, 48.6%) said they did not remember the diagnostic criteria of migraine, while 13% had never heard about the criteria at all.

11.4% of respondents did not know that prophylactic therapy even existed, while only 33.7% said they remember prophylaxis indications. Only 13.7% ($n = 24$) could correctly identify the correct duration of prophylaxis while 57.1% ($n = 100$) of subjects didn't know, 21.1% ($n = 37$) underestimated, and 8% ($n = 14$) overestimated the duration of prophylactic therapy of migraine. Respondents were able to recognize, on average, just 1.3 out of 5 real indications and 3.5 out of 11 real triggers. Stress was by far the most commonly recognized trigger, recognized by 92.6% of respondents.

Consulters vs. Non-Consulters

Only 60.6% ($n = 66$) respondents had sought consult. In general, consult-seekers had better knowledge of diagnostic criteria and prophylactic therapy in the subjective questions. The difference almost reached statistical significance in the knowledge about prophylactic therapy (table 2), where 57.8% of consultants said they remembered the indications of prophylaxis compared with just 28% of non-consulters (OR:1.84, $P = 0.05$). Similarly, only 40.4% of those who chose not to consult correctly believed that aura is essential for a migraine diagnosis compared with a majority (59.1%) of consult seekers (OR: 0.47, $P = 0.02$). Paradoxically, Non-consulters were more likely to correctly identify the monthly headache rate cut-off for initiation of prophylaxis (30.3%) vs. consultants (15.1%), and the difference was statistically significant ($P = 0.02$). However, upon further analysis, it was revealed that consultants were more likely than non-consulters to underestimate the monthly headache rate threshold for starting the prophylaxis, with a mean monthly rate chosen by this group to be 2.85 vs. 3.18 by the non-seekers ($P = 0.03$). There was no meaningful difference in recognizing triggers and indications of prophylaxis between both groups. (Table 2). Additionally, headache frequency in both groups was also similar.

Migraineurs vs non-Migraineurs

Migraineurs were much more likely to have visited a doctor than non-migraineurs, and the difference was statistically significant (OR:3.7, $P<0.001$). A neurologist consult was even more significantly associated with a diagnosis of migraine (OR:17.4, $P<0.001$). Females were more likely (31.8%) to have migraines than males (22.9%), although the

difference was not statistically significant. Similarly, there was no statistically significant difference between knowledge of duration or prophylaxis indications and triggers between migraineur and non-migraineur populations.

Migraineurs were more likely than non-migraineurs; however, remember the diagnostic criteria (52% vs. 32%, OR:2.26, $P = 0.016$). They were also more likely to know prophylaxis indications (43% vs. 29.9%), but the difference here was just above statistical significance ($P = 0.08$). Headache attacks per month were significantly higher in migraineurs (median 2+/- 4) than non-migraineurs (0.5 +/- 2 IQR), and the difference was statistically significant ($P < 0.01$).

Aware v.s Unaware Migraineurs

Awareness of one's own disease was more common in females (53%) vs. males (40%), but the difference was statistically insignificant. Migraine-aware respondents were significantly more likely to have visited a doctor (81%) than unaware migraineurs (44%, OR: 5.0, $P = 0.01$). Neurologist consult, in particular, was more common in migraine aware (6/21) vs. unaware (2/27, OR: 9.6, $P = 0.024$). All knowledge questions related to diagnosis and prophylaxis had similar results in both groups, as outlined in table 3.

DISCUSSION

Our study presents the first extensive data on awareness and knowledge of migraine among physicians in Pakistan, with a point-prevalence of migraine at 24.4%. A similar prevalence has been reported in neighboring countries in the region [21, 22]. Harrekar *et al* have previously reported a 1-year prevalence of migraine in the general population of Pakistan to be 22.5%. The differences in prevalence have been attributed to methodological variations and changes in cultural attitudes towards disease that lead to underdiagnosis in certain subsets of the population [23, 24].

Lack of awareness and knowledge of migraine and its management among physicians causes a striking yet avoidable burden on its demographics. One of the critical reasons for underdiagnoses of migraine is unfamiliarity with the diagnostic criteria and the reluctance to use diagnostic tools among physicians [5, 25].

Kristofferson *et al*, who surveyed knowledge of Neurology residents in Norway regarding migraine, reported lapses in the knowledge of neurology residents below the bare minimum [16]. Only half of the neurology residents had used the diagnostic criteria regularly, undoubtedly leading to inadequate familiarity with migraine presentations and subsequent underdiagnosis. Gulkin *et al* reported that only 10% of primary care physicians in Turkey could give the complete diagnostic criteria of migraine [5]. We report similar findings in our population as 62% of participants in our study admitted not remembering the diagnostic criteria. When tested objectively, 38% believed in the myth that migraine could not be diagnosed without aura. This further indicates a fundamental unfamiliarity with types of migraine, migraine without aura in particular. The inadequate familiarity with not only the diagnostic criteria but the types of migraine as well can undeniably lead to an underdiagnosis and mismanagement of a plethora of cases.

The migraine triggers originated from self-reports by patients, but some have been experimentally verified [26]. Advice regarding triggers has varied through the years. Historically, it was argued that the best way to avoid the headache is to avoid the triggers. Still, recent evidence suggests that the association of triggers with the headache is a learned process of the brain that subsequently attaches it to the headache. According to this theory, slow desensitization techniques rather than avoidance strategy is the way forward [27]. Nonetheless, knowledge of the trigger itself is vital for physicians if they counsel the patient appropriately for either strategy. The fact that an average physician in our study could not recognize even half of the triggers from the list points to an apparent deficiency in this knowledge. Moreover, perhaps even more worryingly, almost half of the participants chose the distractors (Hypertension and Diabetes) as triggers.

Menstrual migraine is associated with particularly significant morbidity due to the longer duration, increased severity, and periodicity, and also because of its refractoriness to abortive treatment [28]. The disability associated with it deserves a special mention because it, arguably, is the most common migraine trigger, with 70% of

female migraineurs reporting this trigger [28]. It is also one of the most common disabling conditions presented in Gynecological practices [29]. 42% of our respondents did not recognize it as a trigger. In comparison, an overwhelming majority (90%) did not know that menstrual migraine can itself be an indication for initiation of prophylaxis, which reveals a vital missing piece in physicians' knowledge on the subject.

Studies on migraine have consistently demonstrated the role of preventive therapy in reducing disease burden [30]. Preventive therapy is central in managing migraineurs with severe and frequent attacks as the overutilization of abortive therapy may frequently lead to medication-overuse headache (MOH) or resistant migraine [31]. Preventive therapy is also required in some cases to augment responsiveness to abortive therapy as it reduces the frequency and duration of the migraine attacks and the severity [13]. Silberstein and colleagues demonstrated that preventive therapy (when indicated) combined with abortive was much more effective in reducing the migraine load than abortive therapy alone [31]. Moreover, management of the CM requires an approach involving a combination of abortive, preventive, and behavioral therapy. In our sample, chronic migraine (frequent attacks) as an indication of prophylaxis was recognized by 50% of respondents, which fares relatively better than recognition of other indications but is still inadequate. On the contrary, only 33% of doctors and medical students thought they remembered the indications of prophylaxis. When tested from a list of indications, a physician could identify only about one indication out of 5. These results reveal another vital knowledge gap that needs priority focus.

Physicians, in general, underestimate the role of preventive therapy [31-34]. American Migraine Communication study highlighted physicians underrating the disability caused by migraine and thus the need for prophylactic therapy [35]. In contrast, there is some evidence that neurologists, compared with other physicians, tend to emphasize the role of prophylaxis [36]. Physicians' unfamiliarity with preventive therapy means an inability to manage Chronic Migraine cases properly. Preventive therapy use among physicians in our sample (18%) was similar to the prevalence

reported elsewhere in the literature [31, 37]. The fact that more than 2/3rd of physicians in our sample did not remember the indications of prophylaxis when asked subjectively is particularly troubling for a large subset of special cases. These comprise but are not limited to chronic migraine, menstrual-related, resistant migraine, & other more severe forms of migraine, which are contingent upon preventive therapy and are perhaps responsible for several mishandled cases. Additionally, we found no meaningful differences between consulters and non-consulters for recognition of prophylaxis indications. Our inference is that the under-emphasis of preventive therapy in the form of avoidance of triggers or drug therapy is so pervasive that even after consulting a physician for the headache respondents did not gain any meaningful knowledge in these aspects of the migraine.

Weber *et al* reported that Primary care physicians suffering from migraine described receiving more migraine patients in their practice than their healthy colleagues. Their patients were more likely to have a better quality of life[38]. This is perhaps related to the sensitivity of such physicians towards migraineurs. A similar inference can be made from our results as migraineurs were more likely to state that they knew the diagnostic criteria. However, the difference was not significant when asked the question regarding diagnosis objectively, i.e., the question related to the aura. The improved knowledge of the disease's diagnosis and management in physicians with migraine (table 2) puts them better positioned to understand and help the patients. Migraineurs in our study were also more likely to have visited a doctor (61.4% vs. 29.1%). The association was strongest with a neurologist's consult (OR: 17.4, P<.001). This potentially represents the role of a consult, especially a neurologist, in diagnosing migraine [39]. The subjective feeling of knowledge related to diagnostic criteria as well as prophylactic therapy was also significantly better in consult seekers (table 2). We think this is a result of the discussion about the disease with their consulting physicians or more intrigue and reflection about the disease resulting from the consult. The consulting process, the resultant introspection, and perhaps reading about their condition helped physicians improve their knowledge. This is also reflective

of the power and efficacy of a medical consult [39]. The contradictory results on the monthly headache rate threshold of preventive therapy can be logically explained with a further breakdown of data, as consulters favored the prophylaxis more and underestimated the threshold for initiation of prophylaxis, constituting a better trend in the overall.

Radtke *et al* reported 70% awareness of migraine in their sample in 2012, with a kappa coefficient of agreement value of 0.46 between ICHD-II criteria and awareness [25]. At 44%, migraine in our sample was much lower ($k=0.52$). The sensitivity of physician's diagnosis among the sample collected by Radtke *et al* was also better at 63%. We did not specify the temporal order of events in our question, i.e., whether they knew about their migraine before consulting a doctor or suspected one after their visit. Hence, this self-awareness of migraine is not mutually exclusive to the consulting physician's diagnosis of migraine in our cases. However, our data somewhat hints toward the role of physician's consult in producing this self-awareness. Although consulting with physicians could not contribute to better knowledge of the subjects, it still helped diagnose the disease in many cases. The precision of diagnosis was better when consultations came from neurologists (table 3). However, the number in our sample is too small, and more studies are needed for a more generalizable inference. Our study thus reinforces the earlier findings that the advice to seek to consult for a headache instead of over-the-counter medication use is essential and needs to be practiced by our physicians [39].

The ever-increasing global burden of non-communicable diseases concerning morbidity and the fact that migraine is jumping the ladder of the most prevalent diseases exponentially is alarming [40]. Every effort has to be made for an accurate and timely diagnosis of migraine. Fortunately, with the advent of new data on drug therapy in migraine, this era is also witnessing a remarkable change in its management [41]. Recent studies show mechanism-based therapies like anti-calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) monoclonal antibodies (erenumab, tinezumab, fremanezumab, and galcanezumabas) as promising drugs in preventive management of migraine [13, 42]. In

addition to rapid onset, these drugs also carry fewer adverse effects (mainly injection site reactions). Erenumab specifically has shown effectiveness in a 50% reduction in migraine days, with a favorable safety profile [43]. However, currently high costs and limited availability of these monoclonal antibodies is a challenge in migraine management on a global level. Various methods can be applied to improve awareness and knowledge of migraine among the physicians who serve as the first encounter with the healthcare for patients with headaches. We suggest that the interventions for improvement have to be incorporated early in the course of a physician's clinical life. One such strategy can be dedicated lectures on migraine in medical schools, focusing on it as a high yield topic of examination, including standardized patients with migraine in clinical exams. New graduates should be educated by headache specialists on migraine diagnosis and management before starting internships. For practicing physicians, the interventions can include yearly workshops, CME activities, and the provision of migraine diagnostic and management posters to be placed in the clinics. Virtual education, which saw its role vastly inflated during the current pandemic, can be utilized to maximize education on migraine among physicians. It is also imperative to prospectively study the effects of increased awareness of migraine among the physicians to establish the amplitude of change it may carry in decreasing the global burden of disability with regard to migraine. Together with the introduction of more effective preventive and possibly curative treatments, this may also play a key role in reducing the global prevalence of migraine.

Our study has some limitations grounded in the study design used. Firstly, the subjective questions on diagnostic criteria and prophylactic treatment are subject to social desirability bias as most respondents will not be open to accepting their knowledge deficit. Secondly, we did not use any migraine diagnosis registry due to lack of the aforementioned, but our data collection team ensured that respondents understood diagnostic criteria during collection. Thirdly, excluding the cases that did not experience headaches may have potentially excluded a specific subset of doctors whose knowledge was not tested. This, albeit small, is a potential source of sampling

bias in our study. Fourthly, although almost all the questionnaires were filled in the presence of one of the study team members and we tried to keep the questionnaire as short as possible, there is still a possibility that some of the participants might not have read the questions and criteria thoroughly, an inherent possibility with the questionnaire-based studies.

Despite these limitations, we believe the study is largely free from any systematic biases.

CONCLUSION

Despite its high prevalence and high associated morbidity, migraine diagnosis and management knowledge remain below the minimum functionally required among physicians in Pakistan. Steps need to be taken to bridge the knowledge gap among doctors to address underdiagnosis and mismanagement of the disease.

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