

## Let's Talk About...

# Headache treatment in the hospital

Constant, severe headaches can be disabling for children. If treating your child's headaches at home does not work, their healthcare provider may recommend hospital treatment.

## How do I prepare for my child's hospital treatment?

Prepare for your child's headache treatment by:

- Collecting homework from your child's teachers
- Scheduling childcare for other children at home
- Taking time off work to spend time with your child in the hospital
- Asking your child's healthcare provider if your child should continue taking their medicines in the hospital

Your child's healthcare provider will probably admit your child to the hospital before you get there. This is to "preauthorize" (approve) the time in the hospital with your insurance.

## How will my child's headaches be treated in the hospital?

Depending on your child's headaches, their healthcare provider may recommend pills or IV (a small tube placed into the vein) medicines:

- DHE (dihydroergotamine mesylate) used for treating migraines
- Ketorolac (Toradol®) Pain reliever
- Medicines for nausea or vomiting

These medicines make headaches less severe, but they don't cure them. The goal in the hospital is to make headaches less severe so other treatments work better and your child can recover at home.

## Activity

While your child is being treated in the hospital, they will rest quietly in a darkened room. Your child can read, listen to quiet music, and have conversations. TV, video games, phone calls and texting are not allowed, and no one but your immediate family can visit. The hospital staff will encourage your child to rest so their brain can recover.



## Sleep

Restful sleep is important for your child to recover from severe headaches. While your child is in the hospital, it is as quiet as possible. The staff will try not to interrupt your child's sleep.

