Box 1

Medication overuse headache diagnostic criteria[5]

Description

Headache occurring on 15 or more days per month developing as a consequence of regular overuse of acute or symptomatic headache medication (on 10 or more, or 15 or more days per month, depending on the medication) for > 3 months.
It usually, but not invariably, resolves after the overuse is stopped

Diagnostic criteria

- Headache occurring on 15 or more days per month in a patient with a preexisting headache disorder
- Regular overuse for > 3 months of one or more drugs that can be taken for acute and/or symptomatic treatment of headache:

— Triptans, ergots, opioids, combination analgesics or multiple drug classes. Regular intake on 10 or more days per month for >3 months

— Simple analgesics (e.g. aspirin, ibuprofen and paracetamol). Regular intake on 15 or more days per month for >3 months

- Headache not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis