

Post-test Probabilities of Migraine Based on the Number of Migraine Features on History Compared to a Reference Standard of Headache Expert Neurologist Clinical Evaluation

Result	Pretest Probability (%)†		
	20	50	80
0, 1, or 2 migraine symptoms*	5	15	50
3 migraine symptoms*	75	94	99
4 or 5 migraine symptoms*	90	96	>99

* The five migraine symptoms are 1) Pulsatile quality (headache described as pounding or throbbing); 2) One-day duration of headache (episode of headache lasts 4-72 hours if untreated); 3) Unilateral location; 4) Nausea or vomiting; and 5) Disabling intensity (altered usual daily activities during headache episode)

† Pre-test probability of migraine is in the range of 5% to 20% among the general population, but among persons consulting a physician for headache, the pre-test probability of migraine is at least 50%. Additional information such as a family history of headaches or migraine can raise the pre-test probability to closer to 80%.

Table from *Physicians Information and Education Resource (PIER), Migraine module.*