

## Migraine Pain—Intracranial or Extracranial?

In his article in *Headache Currents* vol. 3, numbers 5/6, Lars Edvinsson states categorically and without any supporting evidence: "The associated pain (of primary headaches) originates from intracranial blood vessels." The theory that the vascular pain in migraine originates from the intracranial vessels has never been substantiated with hard scientific evidence. It is a false conclusion that has been woven thread by thread into the fabric of our consciousness, until it has eventually become accepted as truth! Although it has been shown that there is a prolonged period of cerebral hyperperfusion in migraine,<sup>1-3</sup> the period of hyperperfusion is not simultaneous with the pain.<sup>4</sup> In some patients the pain actually coincides with the oligemic phase,<sup>4,5</sup> and in others it subsides long before the hyperemic phase is over.<sup>6</sup> Despite repeated attempts over the years, using every available method including transcranial Doppler, carotid arteriography,<sup>133</sup>Xenon inhalation, and the most advanced SPECT and PET technology, no one has yet been able to show that the intracranial arteries are the source of pain in migraine.

Many prominent headache specialists refuse to acknowledge, even in the face of overwhelming factual evidence, that the pain of migraine often originates in the extracranial vessels.<sup>7</sup> Progress in understanding the pathophysiology of primary headache is being severely hampered by this incomprehensible attitude! The time has come to settle the matter once and for all, according to hard scientific evidence. I look forward to a vigorous and interesting debate.

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