

TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA CLIPS-OSF develops app to diagnose migraine sooner and more accurately

Hrachya Nersesyan MD, PhD, a headache neurologist and the director of the headache clinic at the [OSF Illinois Neurological Institute \(INI\)](#) in Peoria, Illinois. Co-developer of the MIGRO app.

Primary care providers have time constraints which can sometimes limit their ability to diagnose migraine – a disorder of the central nervous system.

“Well, they have to deal with 55 different problems, all at the same time, and the time constraint is a significant barrier in properly obtaining the history of the headache to be able to correctly and accurately diagnose, not just migraine, but also its sub-types, and decide what to do about that.” (:22)

Researchers reviewed records and found primary care physicians who referred patients to a specialist struggled to identify migraine types and subtypes, often due to lack of complete information from the patient.

“Some of them, it took five, eight, even 10 years to even being diagnosed and receiving the treatment. We had a couple of patients that mentioned their headaches over 20 years ago and just 20 years later (they) were able to be finally diagnosed with the proper type (of migraine) and be introduced to treatment.” (:21)

Dr. Nersesyan explains that the app will also help primary care providers in those settings to know if a patient can be managed locally or absolutely needs to be referred to a headache specialist.

“Because a majority of the migraineurs can be managed with very simple medications and interventions as long as they have the right diagnosis and the right treatment and they don’t necessarily need to see a headache neurologist or any other headache specialist. they can be very well managed by primary care providers.” (:20)

The app creators believe that MIGRO can help primary care providers make timely and accurate migraine diagnosis., dramatically shortening the time to implementing an effective treatment.

“It allows and gives the ability to providers, in a fairly short period of time to hit all the key question marks and points that one needs to come to the diagnosis of migraine or to say, ‘Well this headache is not a migraine,’ or to define between different types of migraine that exists out there.” (:23)