



AAN 2022 Poster Presentation

Abstract 22-01

Title: The Migraine Disability Assessment (MIDAS) as an Indicator of Resilience in Patients with Headaches

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Introduction/Background: Resilience is associated with quality of life and functioning among patients with chronic conditions. We investigated whether resilience strongly mitigates headache related disability as measured by the Migraine Disability Assessment (MIDAS). MIDAS is a clinical tool to measure disability in migraine patients. MIDAS-predicted disability does not always correlate with actual functional disability, with some high-scoring patients remaining high functioning, and some low-scoring patients having poor functional outcomes. In these non-correlated cases, the MIDAS could potentially indicate resilience in addition to disability. Our objectives were to examine cross-sectional correlations of headache disability with measures of resilience, anxiety, and depression; and to determine if resilience modified the association between headache severity/frequency and disability.

Methods: We prospectively recruited 160 patients with primary headache disorders seen in a tertiary Headache Medicine program between 02/20/2018 and 08/02/2019. Each participant completed the MIDAS, Conner Davidson Resilience Scale (CDRS-25), Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9), General Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) and Well-Being Index (WHO-5). Inclusion criteria included an ICD-10 headache diagnosis, English-speaking, and intact cognition status. Exclusion criteria excluded patients who did not experience pain as a part of their headache disorder.

Results: CDRS-25 score was negatively correlated with total MIDAS ($p=.00091$), GAD-7 ($p<.0001$) and PHQ-9 scores ($p<.0001$). Well-being inversely correlated with disability ($p<.0001$). Increases in anxiety and depression increased the odds of disability. A one-point increase in the CDRS-25 score decreased the odds of being severely disabled by 4% (OR = 0.96, $p=0.001$). However, CDRS-25 score did not significantly moderate the association between headache days and disability.

Discussion and Conclusion: Traits associated with resilience decreased the odds of severe disability from headaches, whereas anxiety, depression, and headache frequency were strongly associated with higher disability from headache. While resilience did not significantly interact with average pain severity, higher resilience scores correlated with a decreased severe disability (defined as a MIDAS score greater than 21). Resilience training could be further studied as an adjunct headache therapy.

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