

Skin sensitivity can ID responders to galcanezumab for migraine prevention

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The presence or absence of nonictal allodynia can be used to identify

migraine sufferers who will likely respond to galcanezumab, according to a study published online Feb. 14 in *Cephalalgia*.

Sait Ashina, M.D., from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, and colleagues assessed whether it is possible to identify a patient's response to [prophylactic treatment](#) with galcanezumab based on the presence or absence of cephalic and/or extracephalic allodynia during the pretreatment nonictal phase of migraine.

The researchers found that using strict criteria for allodynia (heat, 32 to 40 degrees Celsius; cold, 32 to 20 degrees Celsius; mechanical, 50 percent decrease in monthly migraine days) and 85 percent in the 19 nonresponders. The incidence of nonictal extracephalic allodynia was less accurate in distinguishing responders from nonresponders. The incidence of nonictal cephalic allodynia was similar for both chronic migraine and [high-frequency](#) episodic migraine.

"This is yet another novel finding that points to the possibility that the state of non-ictal allodynia may be attributed to molecular, cellular, and/or physiological properties of central trigeminovascular neurons and [brain areas](#) that regulate their excitability that are due to the genetic load of the individual patient rather than the pathophysiological state of disease," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the [pharmaceutical industry](#); galcanezumab was provided by Eli Lilly, which funded parts of the study.

More information: Sait Ashina et al, Pre-treatment non-ictal cephalic allodynia identifies responders to prophylactic treatment of chronic and episodic migraine patients with galcanezumab: A prospective quantitative sensory testing study (NCT04271202), *Cephalalgia* (2023). [DOI: 10.1177/03331024221147881](https://doi.org/10.1177/03331024221147881)

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