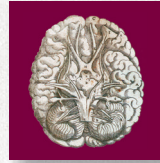




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Classification of Headache Disorders in the Beginning of the 19th Century in Vilnius and Comparison with ICHD-3

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In this paper we present the classification of headaches introduced by Marcellus Octavius Malewicz in his doctoral thesis on the frequency of brain diseases (*Dissertatio inauguralis medico-practica de frequentioribus cerebri morbis in Instituto Clinico Vilnensi observatis*) published in 1829, in which he described the definition, causes, clinical features and treatment methods of headaches observed while practicing as a student of medicine in Vilnius University Therapy clinic. Then we compare it to the modern classification of headache disorders (3rd edition, ICHD-3) adopted by International Headache Society in 2018.

Malewicz defined idiopathic (primary) and symptomatic (secondary) types of headaches. The author described headache location (temporal, occipital, frontal, and supraorbital), distribution (unilateral vs bilateral), duration, quality (pulsating, stabbing, throbbing, pressing, pulling, and spastic), intensity (from light to unbearable), association with menstrual cycle and circadian distribution. Malewicz paid attention to accompanying symptoms such as facial flush, visual auras, photophobia, nausea and other phenomena. Exposure to heat or cold, alcohol abuse, psychologic burnout, external violence, common cold, organic brain disease, hysteria and metal intoxication were believed to be the causes of idiopathic headache. The pathogenesis of this type of headache was thought to be blood accumulation in the brain. On the contrary, symptomatic headaches were assumed to be symptoms of acute illnesses, and also indicated spread of the disease to the brain.

In this paper we will also show that Malewicz's and others' early accounts on headache classification are comparable to research-based modern headache classification systems.