

Case:

A 20 year old female presents to the ER with a chief complaint of a severe headache. The headache started suddenly 6 hours ago while reading a book. She had similar headaches about 5 times in the past few years but never this severe. Prior headaches resolved with Ibuprofen and rest but not this one. Her pain is bilateral, 10/10 in intensity, and associated with photophobia and phonophobia. She also notes some visual blurring prior to the headache which is now gone. She denies nausea, fever, focal weakness or numbness. Her past medical history is unremarkable. Review of systems reveals her menstrual period started a day back.

Her exam shows a BP of 120/80, HR of 70, RR of 20 and no fever. She is alert but is in significant distress from her headache. She has scalp tenderness bilaterally. Pupils are 3 mm, equal and reactive. Heart, lung, and abdominal exams are normal. She has a GCS of 15. Cranial nerves and motor, sensory, cerebellar, DTRs are all normal.