

Aberrant Drug-taking Behaviors and Headache: Patient Versus Physician Report

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Objective: To explore prevalence of aberrant medication-taking behaviors (AMTB) among headache patients and treating physician's awareness of such behaviors. **Methods:** Fifty patient-physician dyads were surveyed on patients' AMTB. **Results:** The most frequently endorsed behaviors by patients and physicians, respectively, were going to the ER for pain medication (n = 19) and continuing to take pain medication despite minimal relief (n =

23). For the majority of AMTB, phi coefficients indicating level of patient-physician agreement were equal to chance. **Conclusions:** Headache patients perform a wide range of AMTB. Low rates of patient-physician agreement indicate that physicians possess limited knowledge of patients' AMTB.

Key words: aberrant drug-taking behavior, prescription drug abuse, headache, pain

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