Migraine is ranked according to the *Global Burden of Disease Survey 2010*, as the third most prevalent disorder and seventh-highest specific cause of disability worldwide.

Despite effective treatments exists and good health care can greatly reduce the burden, headache disorders are under-recognized, under-treated, commonly mismanaged and impose a substantial health and economic burden, migraine alone being the most costly of the purely neurological disorders. Long-term side effects, high comorbidity, disability, chronification and dependency are major problems.

Despite the availability of effective and safe treatments, migraineurs continue to experience significant pain and disability.

According to WHO, this abject health-care failure has its roots in education failure at every level, and in the resulting and widespread lack of understanding. The development of treatment guidelines and changes in headache classification hopefully will prompt health care providers to re-examine clinical practice patterns and lead to better care.

Advances in understanding the pathogenesis of migraine should lead to more targeted, effective, and tolerable acute and prophylactic treatments.