

CGRP in migraine and cluster headache



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Calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) is widely distributed in the nervous system, particularly in the perivascular trigeminal sensory afferents and the trigeminal nucleus caudalis. CGRP dilates human cerebral arteries, induces mast cell degranulation and plasma extravasation, and is released upon trigeminal ganglion thermocoagulation. Clinical data from phase II and III trials of four anti-CGRP monoclonal antibodies showed a positive effect in the preventive treatment of episodic and chronic migraine. Clinical trials are also in progress for preventive treatment of cluster headache with anti-CGRP monoclonal antibodies. This lecture focuses on experimental data derived from human studies which support a key role of CGRP in migraine and cluster headache.
