

# THREE STEPS OF ACUTE TREATMENT



## STEP 1:

OTCs  
(Over-the-Counter  
Medications)

- OTCs represent the first line of therapy



## STEP 2:

Triptans or  
NSAIDs

- Consider formulation options
  - Tablets, SQ, IN, liquids, powders
  - Consider SQ and IN for awakening migraine, vomiting, and refractory headache
- If ineffective, contraindicated, or intolerable, move to step 3



## STEP 3:

Gepants, Ditans,  
or Ergots

- Gepants
  - Have a low side-effect profile
  - Are less likely to cause MOH\*
  - Do Not have a CVD contraindication like triptans
- Ditans
  - Do Not have a CVD contraindication like triptans
- Ergots like dihydroergotamine
  - Can be used for difficult-to-treat migraines
  - Are thought NOT cause MOH
  - ARE contraindicated for CVD\*

\*CVD = Cardiovascular Disease

\*MOH = Medication Overuse Headache

# 3 Steps of Triptan Use



## Step 1: Choose Appropriate Patient

- Use caution in those with two or more CD risk factors
- Contraindicated in those with:
  - CAD, CVA/TIA
  - Prinzmetal's Angina
  - Hemiplegic Migraine, or Basilar Migraine



## Step 2: Advise Patient of Side Effects

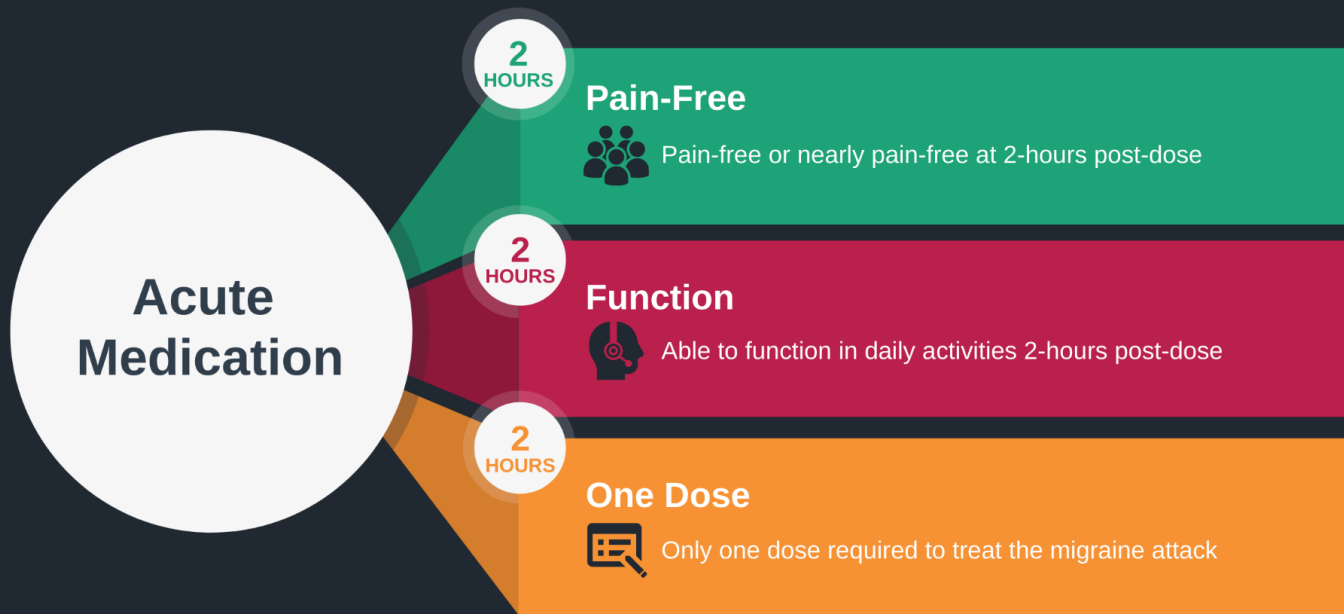
- Paresthesia, neck tightness, chest tightness
- Dizziness, and somnolence



## Step 3: Choose the Right Formulation

- SQ and IN formulations have a faster onset of action than tablets
- Consider SQ or IN formulations in those with:
  - Vomiting
  - Severe migraine upon awakening
  - Quick onset or high-pain severity migraines

# How Do You Know if Your Acute Medication is Effective?



# THE ORAL TRIPTAN BALANCE BETWEEN **Speed** & **Side Effects**

Learn one from each category

For Those w/ Quick-Onset Severe Migraines



## **SPEED**

1-2 Hour Onset of Action

**Almotriptan\***  
(Axert®)

**Eletriptan**  
(Relpax®)

**Rizatriptan**  
(Maxalt®)

**Sumatriptan**  
(Imitrex®)

**Zolmatriptan**  
(Zomig®)

These triptans act fast but have a higher side effect profile

For those Susceptible to Medication SEs



## **LOW SE**

2-4 Hour Onset of Action

**Almotriptan\***  
(Axert®)

**Frovatriptan**  
(Frova®)

**Naratriptan**  
(Amerge®)

These triptans have a low side effect profile but are slower to act

\*Almotriptan has a fast onset of action and a low SE profile