Current textbook knowledge states that patients with chronic migraine and medication overuse should be withdrawn from acute medication before initiating preventive drug therapy. This recommendation is based on the clinical impression that patients with chronic migraine and medication overuse are refractory to preventive therapy. Recently, however, four randomised trials, two with topiramate and two with onabotulinum toxin A, showed that about half of patients with chronic migraine and medication overuse will respond to these treatments and show both a reduction in migraine days and intake of acute medication. Therefore, I propose to educate patients on the mechanisms of medication overuse and motivate them to reduce intake frequency. Patients who fail should be offered either topiramate or onabotulinum toxin A in combination with behavioural therapy and regular exercise. If this approach fails, patients should be offered withdrawal therapy (detoxification).
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Prof. Diener has authored or co-authored 756 articles in peer reviewed journals (159 as first author, 14 in the NEJM), 253 invited reviews, and 326 book chapters, and served as the editor or author of 73 books. His h index is 81. He is the editor of Aktuelle Neurologie, Stroke News, Kopfschmerz News and Arzneimitteltherapie, deputy editor of Cephalalgia and serves on the editorial boards of Lancet Neurology, Cerebrovascular Diseases, Future Neurology, The International Journal of Clinical Practice, European Neurology, Reviews in Contemporary Pharmacotherapy and Journal of Clinical Investigation.

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