

5 Headache Red Flags



Only 2% of all headaches are secondary / serious!

1. **Thunderclap** – how long from start to peak intensity (open)
2. **Visual disturbance** – progressive, papilloedema, CN palsies
3. **Raised ICP** – severe exertional (tissue – SOL, blood – CVST, CSF – IIH)
4. **Signs of meningism** – photophobia, nuchal rigidity (not photosensitivity or mild neck stiffness)
5. **Focal neurology** – weakness, coordination issues etc