Chronic pain conditions of various types (migraine, back problems, arthritis, and fibromyalgia) are associated with suicidal ideation and suicidal attempts, and migraine has the strongest link (Ratcliffe GE et al. **Clin J Pain** 2008;24:204-210). In this Canadian study, data were derived from a large nationally representative sample, whereas the Taiwan study was limited to schoolchildren between 13 and 15 years, and questionnaires were validated for this population. The subjects were not referred specifically for headache or migraine and the findings were not explained by a recruitment bias. (Amouroux R et al. **Encephale** 2008;34:504-510. Epub 2007 Dec 26).

REPETITIVE DAILY BLINDNESS WITH HEMIPLEGIC MIGRAINE AND *SCN1A* MUTATIONS

Two novel *SCN1A* mutations are identified in two unrelated families with familial hemiplegic migraine and a unique phenotype of elicited repetitive daily blindness, in a report from Hopital Lariboisiere, and other centers in Paris, France, and Geneva, Switzerland. The proband of family 1 is an 18-year-old woman with recurrent attacks of hemiplegic migraine since age 6, and repeated, daily (up to 10 times per day), stereotyped bilateral transient blindness of maximum 10 sec duration. During the attack, pupils are dilated with absent direct and indirect pupillary reflexes. Visual symptoms are spontaneous or triggered by rubbing the eyes. Blindness occurs without associated headache or other neurologic symptoms, and independently of attacks of hemiplegic migraine that occur irregularly from a maximum of 2 per week to one every 2 years. The neurologic, visual acuity, electroretinogram, and fundus examinations are normal outside the attacks. Brain MRI shows a hypersignal T2-WI lesion in the territory of the right inferior cerebellar artery and a few ischemic sequelae in the left posterior inferior cerebellar artery territory. Parenchymal cerebellar lesions were also present on CT at 6 years of age. The proband's mother, sister, and maternal grandfather had hemiplegic migraine without episodic blindness. Family 2 with the association of episodic blindness and hemiplegic migraine in 4 out of 5 affected members was reported previously. The transient daily blindness is suggestive of a retinal spreading depression, triggered by rubbing the eyes. (Vahedi K, Depienne C, Le Fort D et al. Elicited repetitive daily blindness. A new phenotype associated with hemiplegic migraine and *SCN1A* mutations. **Neurology** March 31, 2009;72:1178-1183). (Respond and reprints: Dr Katayoun Vahedi, APHP-Lariboisiere Hospital, Department of Neurology, 2 rue Ambroise Pare, 75010 Paris, France. E-mail: katayoun.vahedi@lrb.aphp.fr).

COMMENT. Familial hemiplegic migraine, a genetically heterogeneous disorder, is linked to three genes, including *SCN1A*. The unique eye phenotype of elicited repetitive daily blindness cosegregating with familial hemiplegic migraine is previously reported in a single Swiss family. The present report identifies *SCN1A* mutations in both the Swiss and French families with this unique phenotype, and excludes mutation in *CACNA1A* and *ATP1A2*, genes most frequently involved in familial hemiplegic migraine. *SCN1A* is also involved in febrile seizures, GEFS+ and Dravet syndrome.