Angle-closure glaucoma is where fluid in the front part of the eye is suddenly blocked from draining out of the eye as it should. Eye pressure rises quickly. Symptoms include headache and severe eye or brow pain, as well as decreased vision, nausea and vomiting. This is a medical emergency. You should seek help right away if you have these symptoms.

Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is swelling in the arteries that run along your temple. Blood supply to the eye is reduced, causing decreased vision and a constant, throbbing pain in the temples. It also causes scalp tenderness. GCA is a medical emergency and needs to be treated right away to prevent vision loss in both eyes.

One of the most serious causes of headaches with vision changes is stroke. This is when blood flow to the brain is reduced or blocked. Stroke signs include a severe headache with a droopy eyelid, and possibly double vision. Get medical help right away if you have these symptoms.

Summary
Headache, or pain in any part of your head, is very common. Most of the time, it is not serious. They are often triggered by things like stress, certain foods, alcohol or being tired. There are many different kinds of headaches, including tension, cluster and migraine headaches. All of these can be treated with medicine.

Occasionally, headaches can be a symptom of eye problems. Angle-closure glaucoma and diseases of the blood vessels feeding the eyes can cause headaches. Your doctor can help find out what is causing your headaches and recommend treatment.

For more about migraine headache, scan this code with your smartphone or visit http://bit.ly/pe_headache.

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Headaches can be caused by many diseases and disorders affecting other parts of the body. Some conditions that can cause headaches include:

- ear problems
- jaw problems
- sinus problems
- arthritis
- high blood pressure
- nerve diseases
- blood vessel disease
- tumors
- aneurysms (when a weak blood vessel fills with blood and bulges)

Figure out what causes your headaches
Tell your healthcare provider if you have severe, frequent, or ongoing headaches. He or she will ask about your symptoms and medical history, and will examine you. You may also need certain tests to help find out what is causing your headaches.

How your headaches will be treated depends on their cause. If it appears that your headaches are caused by eye problems, you may be referred to an eye care provider.
What is a headache?

"Headache" is a term used to describe pain in any part of your head. It is one of the most common health complaints. Most of the time, headaches are not serious. They are often triggered by things like stress, certain foods, alcohol or being tired. Sometimes, though, headaches can be a symptom of eye problems.

There are many different causes of headaches.

Tension headaches

The most common cause of headaches is when muscles in the scalp and neck contract (tighten). This type of headache is called a tension headache. You may feel pressure or dull pain in your forehead and temples, around your eyes, or in your neck.

Some people assume that the neck pain causes your head to hurt. Instead, it is more likely that the tension headache makes your neck hurt.

Feeling nervous, tense or anxious, or being tired or depressed can lead to muscle tightness and pain. Other things that can give you a tension headache include:

- sleeping or sitting in an uncomfortable position
- reading or doing other close-up tasks
- clenching your jaw or grinding your teeth while sleeping
- chewing gum

Most tension headaches go away within a few hours. Many people find relief from nonprescription pain relievers. Talk with your doctor if you get tension headaches frequently.

Migraine headaches

Migraine headaches are another common type of headache. Migraines can be more severe than tension headaches. This type of headache has throbbing pain, often on one side of the head. The pain lasts for hours to several days, and gets worse when you move.

Many people with migraines will have visual symptoms before having the pain. These symptoms can include seeing zigzag lines, shimmering or colored lights, or flashes of light in one side of your vision. This is called a migraine aura. You can also have the visual aura without the pain.

With migraine headaches, you may be sensitive to light, sound and smells. You may also feel nauseous (sick to your stomach) or vomit (throw up).

Migraine facts

Migraine headache affects at least 1 out of 10 people. Migraines can cause you to be very sensitive to light, sound and smells. You may also feel nauseous (sick to your stomach) or vomit (throw up).

Migraine symptoms may include:

- visual changes, such as seeing colored lights or flashes of light in one side of your vision
- sensitivity to light, sound and smells
- nausea, vomiting, or other emotional problems
- environmental factors, such as lights or temperature changes

There are prescription and nonprescription pain medicines to help relieve migraine pain. Also, it can help to know your migraine triggers. This can include:

- certain foods, such as red wine, aged cheese and chocolate
- food products and additives, such as monosodium glutamate (MSG), nitrates and nitrites (used in hot dogs and other processed meats) and artificial sweeteners (like aspartame)
- sleep problems (too much or too little sleep, or irregular sleep patterns)
- stress, anxiety, or other emotional problems
- hormone changes (such as menstruation or pregnancy in women)
- medication or recommend nonprescription medicine.

Poor vision causing headaches in kids? Probably not.

Parents often assume that poor vision causes their child's headaches. But research says otherwise.

One study showed that vision or eye problems are rarely the cause of kids' headaches, even when headaches occur during visual tasks like homework. The findings showed that there was no significant link between children's frequent headaches and a need for glasses.

Follow-up reports from parents showed that headaches improved in 75% (3 out of 4) of the kids. And their headaches were equally likely to improve whether or not they get a new prescription for glasses.

Diseases of the eye are one of the least common causes of headaches. But some serious eye problems can have headaches and vision changes as symptoms.

Cluster headaches

Cluster headaches are less common than tension headaches or migraines. With a cluster headache, you have severe pain on one side of your head. You may have watery or red eyes on that same side of the head. You may also have a stuffy nose and have a runny nose.

Cluster headaches can start suddenly and last from 30 minutes to 2 hours. Many people have a cluster headache every day for a month or two. This can happen several times within a year. Men are more likely than women to get them.

If you suffer from cluster headaches, talk with your doctor. He or she may prescribe medication or recommend nonprescription medicine.

Headaches and eye problems

Eye strain is when your eyes get tired from looking at something for a long time. Reading, doing close work or looking at a computer are common causes. Headaches and blurry vision can be symptoms of eye strain. To help, rest your eyes every hour by looking at something in the distance.