N=18.000 randomly selected subjects of the German Headache Consortium Study received a questionnaire.

N=6.000 of these subjects were inhabitants of the city of Essen.

N=3.778 inhabitants of the city of Essen responded after receipt of the questionnaire, a reminder and max. 8 phone calls.

N=367 subjects with questionnaire-based diagnosis of migraine with aura received a letter about the present study.

N=367 age- and gender-matched subjects with questionnaire-based diagnosis of migraine without aura were randomly selected and received a letter about the present study.

In N=98 subjects a telephone contact, agreement to a diagnostic interview with a headache specialist and verification of diagnosis could be achieved.

N=39 subjects gave consent to participate in the present study.

N=36 subjects were able to perform Valsalva-maneuver and were included in the analysis.

N=120 subjects

N=54 subjects

N=50 subjects