



ASOLAC

Asociación Latinoamericana de CEFALEAS

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To: The EML Secretariat
World Health Organization

Subject: Endorsement of Applications for the WHO Essential Medicines List –
Addressing the Burden of Migraine and Cluster Headache in Latin America

Dear EML Secretariat,

We have read with great interest the applications for the inclusion of the following medications in the WHO Essential Medicines List:

- **A.10** Eletriptan/Naproxen – Migraine
- **A.13** Fremanezumab – High-frequency and Chronic Migraine
- **I.2** Amitriptyline – Migraine Prophylaxis
- **I.3** Bisoprolol – Migraine Prophylaxis
- **I.7** Ibuprofen – Acute Migraine Treatment
- **I.10** Prednisolone, Sumatriptan, and Verapamil – Cluster Headache

We strongly support these applications as they address a **critical gap in access to care**, particularly in **Latin American countries**, where the burden of **migraine and cluster headache is substantial, yet treatment options remain limited** due to economic, regulatory, and healthcare system constraints.

Headache disorders are a leading cause of disability in **low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**, including much of Latin America, where they contribute to **reduced workforce productivity, increased healthcare costs, and a significant impact on quality of life**. Despite the **high prevalence of migraine and cluster headache, specialized care is often scarce, and many patients lack access to effective acute and preventive treatments**.

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The **inclusion of these medications in the WHO Essential Medicines List** would be a **transformative step toward improving access to evidence-based treatments** for patients in Latin America and beyond. In particular:

- **Triptans (Eletriptan, Sumatriptan) and NSAIDs (Ibuprofen, Naproxen)** are essential for acute migraine treatment but remain unavailable or unaffordable for many patients.
- **Fremanezumab, Amitriptyline, and Bisoprolol** provide critical options for **migraine prevention**, especially for those with chronic migraine, who often lack access to specialized care.
- **Prednisolone, Verapamil, and Sumatriptan** are key therapies for **cluster headache**, a highly disabling condition that is frequently misdiagnosed and undertreated.

By prioritizing these medications on the Essential Medicines List, the **WHO can help bridge the treatment gap, ensure affordability, and promote policies that enable broader access in Latin America and other resource-limited regions.**

We urge the WHO to recognize the **public health impact of headache disorders** and to include these **clinically proven, cost-effective therapies** in the WHO Essential Medicines List, improving the lives of millions of people worldwide.

Sincerely,

Pablo Schubaroff
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