NEUROLOGY HEADACHE RED FLAGS

These suggest the need for further investigation.

- New onset or change in headache in patients aged >50 years
- Thunderclap headache
 - Rapid time to peak intensity (secs to 5 mins)
- Focal neurological symptoms
- Non-focal neurological symptoms e.g. Confusion
- Change in headache frequency, characteristics or associated symptoms
- Abnormal neurological examination
- Changes with posture
- Precipitated by physical exertion or Valsalva manoeuvre
 - Coughing, laughing, straining
- Wakes the patient up
- Jaw claudication
- Visual disturbance
- Neck stiffness
- Fever
- New headache in a patient with HIV
- New headache in a patient with cancer
- Risk factors for cerebral venous sinus thrombosis
 - coagulopathies, dehydration, nephrotic syndrome, chronic inflammatory disease, pregnancy, oestrogen containing oral contraceptives, infections (meningitis, sinusitis, mastoiditis), head trauma

