In his article in Headache Currents vol. 3, numbers 5/6, Lars Edvinsson states categorically and without any supporting evidence: “The associated pain (of primary headaches) originates from intracranial blood vessels.” The theory that the vascular pain in migraine originates from the intracranial vessels has never been substantiated with hard scientific evidence. It is a false conclusion that has been woven thread by thread into the fabric of our consciousness, until it has eventually become accepted as truth! Although it has been shown that there is a prolonged period of cerebral hyperperfusion in migraine,1-3 the period of hyperperfusion is not simultaneous with the pain.4 In some patients the pain actually coincides with the oligemic phase,1,4,5 and in others it subsides long before the hyperemic phase is over.6 Despite repeated attempts over the years, using every available method including transcranial Doppler, carotid arteriography, 133Xenon inhalation, and the most advanced SPECT and PET technology, no one has yet been able to show that the intracranial arteries are the source of pain in migraine.

REFERENCES