

# MIGRAINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

---

Contact: Mary-lee Cantor 0861 678 911 [info10@headclin.com](mailto:info10@headclin.com)

## **Breakthrough: Migraine chemical identified**

A breakthrough has been made in a joint research project between South African and Italian scientists. CGRP (calcitonin gene related peptide) the chemical primarily responsible for migraine has been identified in artery samples harvested in South Africa and couriered to Italy for analysis. The study is the brainchild of South African migraine surgery pioneer Dr Elliot Shevel and Italian Professor of Neuropsychiatry Dr Carlo Cianchetti. The project was partly funded by both the South African and Italian governments.

“We operate regularly on these arteries with powerful permanent results and are the only institution in the world that is doing so” explains Dr Shevel, “we’re the only place that was able to supply this biological material from people suffering with migraine.” The surgery itself was published in the UK in 2007 causing a ripple effect in the international migraine science community. At the end of last year Dr Shevel, a maxillo facial surgeon, was invited to Prague to lead the debate on the origin of migraine among the worlds leading neurologists.

Italian Professor of Neuropsychiatry Dr Carlo Cianchetti explains “A section of the artery which is cauterized during the surgery is broken down to analyze its chemical make-up. The results are astounding; the key chemical found in this artery is CGRP which has long been identified as the main chemical which causes migraine.”

This pharmacological breakthrough in mapping of the migraine code provides increasing hope for millions of destitute sufferers around the world.

For more information regarding this study please contact Mary-lee Cantor on +27 11 484 0933.

ENDS