

MIGRAINES SECONDARY TO TINNITUS

A page-first guide to the legal path, veteran-specific medical theory, evidence record, Board outcomes, and recurring opinion failures.

1,028

PUBLISHED BOARD ISSUES

39.7%

GRANTED OF ALL ISSUES

72.9%

GRANTED OF DECIDED

43.7%

REMANDED OF ALL ISSUES

152

DENIED ISSUES

THE SECONDARY CLAIM FOUNDATION

38 CFR 3.310

1

Current migraine diagnosis

2

Service-connected tinnitus

3

Medical nexus for causation or aggravation

MEDICAL PATHWAYS DESCRIBED IN THE RECORD

APPLY TO THIS VETERAN

Central sensitization

The literature discusses overlapping sensory-processing pathways without proving one universal cause.

Trigeminal pathways

Credited opinions may discuss trigeminal hyperexcitability or related neurologic mechanisms.

Measured language

The science supports association and plausible mechanisms, not a settled causal rule for every veteran.

EVIDENCE RECORD

BUILD THE CHAIN

✓ Documented migraine diagnosis or treatment

✓ Migraine-specific medication history

✓ Opinion using measured medical reasoning

✓ Response to both causation and aggravation

✓ Lay history of attacks and tinnitus flares

✓ Review of VA opinions for speculative hedging

TWO RESEARCH VIEWS

SEPARATE DENOMINATORS

Causation versus aggravation

422 classified grants

348 caused

74 aggravated

67 denied with no link

Private opinion comparison

Private opinion
n = 3,174

78%

No private opinion
n = 20,459

46%

Grant rate is granted of granted plus denied across the full destination-condition dataset. Association is descriptive, not causal.

RECURRING OPINION FAILURES

READ THE ACTUAL DENIAL

Generic migraine causes are not applied to the veteran

Speculative or confusing double-negative language

Examiner ignores lay and medication evidence

No separate headache diagnosis is acknowledged

Outcome shares use all 1,028 pairing issues. The 72.9 percent rate excludes remands and other outcomes. The causation and aggravation panel uses a separate classified subset. Highest-volume tinnitus secondary pairing. These Board patterns do not predict an individual claim.



RateMyVSO.net

Read the record. Build the chain.

Educational material, not legal or medical advice.
Board decisions, 1992-2026. RateMyVSO analysis, July 2026.