

THE TEMPORAL ARTERITIS PROFORMA: THE 39 STEPS TO CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS

NICOLE S. LIM BMed, SHAHRIAR AMJADI MBBS, CALUM W.K. CHONG BMed, IAN C. FRANCIS FRACS PhD
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SYMPTOMS

1. TEMPORAL / OCCIPITAL HEADACHE¹⁻³
2. JAW CLAUDICATION⁴⁻⁶
3. SCALP PAIN^{7,8}
4. Vertigo⁹
5. Affective symptoms / Indifference¹⁰
6. Hypogeusia¹¹

7. Blurred vision¹²⁻¹⁴
8. AMAUROSIS FUGAX¹⁴⁻¹⁶
9. Diplopia^{13,14}
10. Photopsiae¹⁷

11. Myalgia / stiffness^{18,19}
 - Neck
 - Shoulders
 - Limb girdles (PMR)
12. Arthralgia¹³

13. TIA / Stroke²⁰⁻²²
14. Chest pain (from coronary aa / aorta)²¹⁻²³
15. Abdominal pain²⁴
16. Haematochezia / Melaena²⁵
17. Calf Claudication^{25,26}

18. Peripheral Neuropathic Symptoms²⁶

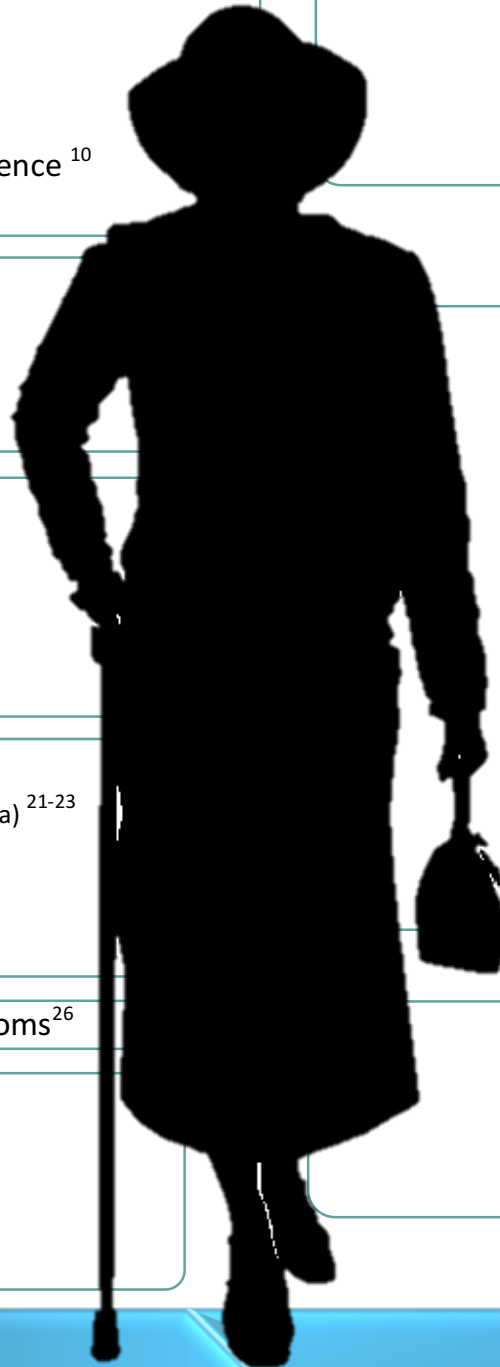
19. Anorexia²²
20. Weight loss²²
21. Fevers⁴
22. Malaise / Fatigue⁴
23. Night sweats²²

SIGNS

24. Temporal / occipital artery¹²
 - Tender
 - Swollen
25. Preauricular oedema²⁹
26. Scalp necrosis³⁰

27. Diminished visual acuity¹²
28. Loss of colour vision¹³
29. Visual field defects¹³
30. RAPD¹³
31. Cranial nerve palsy III, IV, VI³¹
32. Optic disc³²
 - Pallor
 - Oedema
 - Haemorrhage
33. Retinal Cotton Wool Spots³³
34. CRA occlusion¹⁵
35. BRA occlusion¹³
36. Cilioretinal artery occlusion¹⁵

37. Proximal Limb Girdle Tenderness¹⁸
38. Proximal Muscle Weakness¹⁷
39. Peripheral Neuropathy²⁷



HIGH CLINICAL
SUSPICION OF TA

CRP + ESR

IMMEDIATE
OPHTHALMOLOGY
CONSULT

COMMENCE
SYSTEMIC
STERIODS
IMMEDIATELY

PERFORM
ADEQUATE
TEMPORAL ARTERY
BIOPSY³⁴ ASAP



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