



A flow chart for the evaluation of chorea

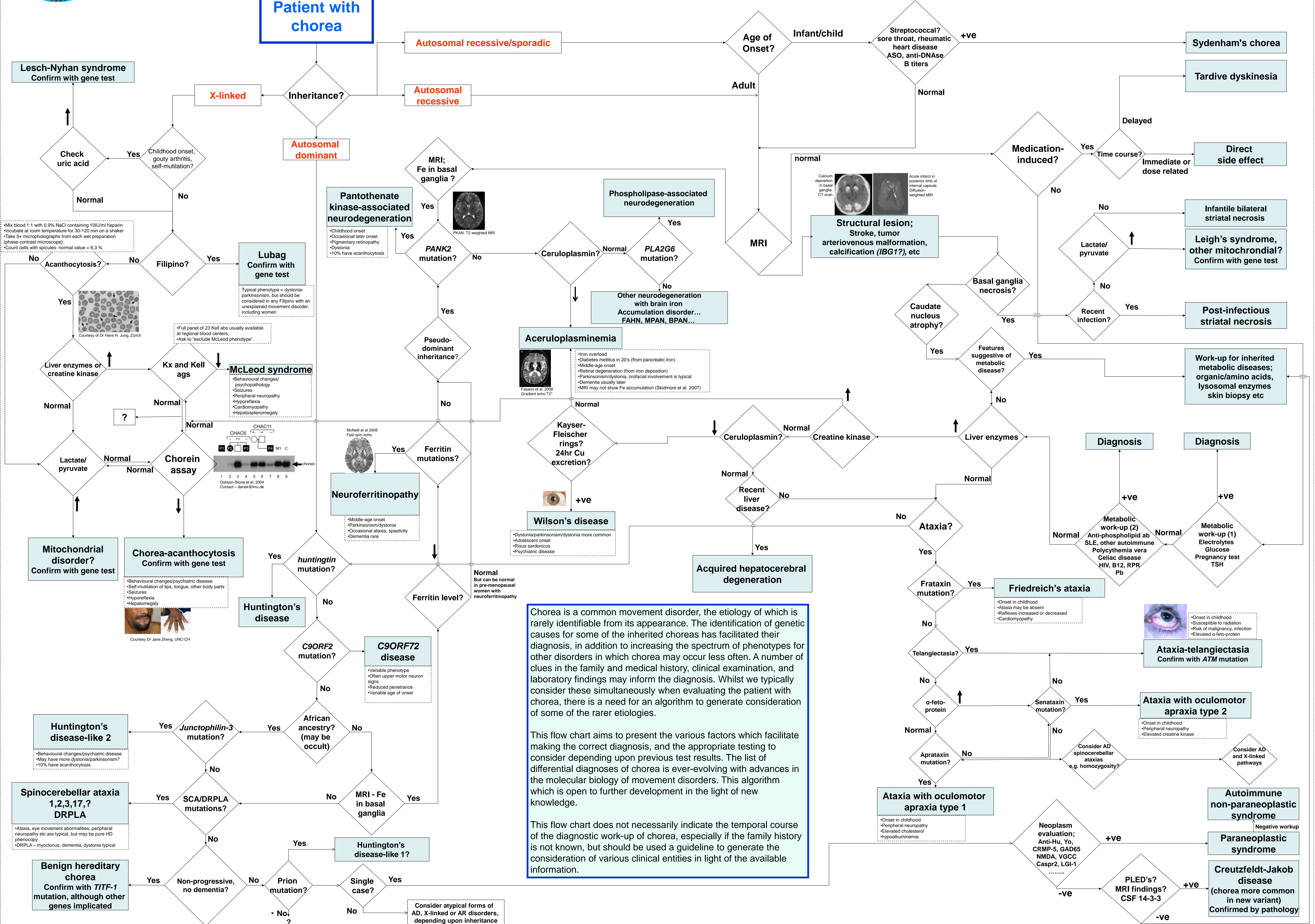
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Patient with chorea



Chorea is a common movement disorder, the etiology of which is rarely identifiable from its appearance. The identification of genetic causes for some of the inherited choreas has facilitated their diagnosis, in addition to increasing the spectrum of phenotypes for other disorders in which chorea may occur less often. A number of clues in the family and medical history, clinical examination, and laboratory findings may inform the diagnosis. Whilst we typically consider these simultaneously when evaluating the patient with chorea, there is a need for an algorithm to generate consideration of some of the rarer etiologies.

This flow chart aims to present the various factors which facilitate making the correct diagnosis, and the appropriate testing to consider depending upon previous test results. The list of differential diagnoses of chorea is ever-evolving with advances in the molecular biology of movement disorders. This algorithm which is open to further development in the light of new knowledge.

This flow chart does not necessarily indicate the temporal course of the diagnostic work-up of chorea, especially if the family history is not known, but should be used a guideline to generate the consideration of various clinical entities in light of the available information.