# Investigation protocols in pituitary adenomas functional and non functional

# Introduction

Pituitary gland
- Pituitary fossa
- Mass: 5 gms
- DIMENSIONS
- 7mm (Ht)
- 9mm (AP)
- 11m(transverse)

originates from Rathke's pouch and infundibulum

| Cell type | hormone | Clinical syndrome | Tumor type |
|---|---|---|---|
| Somatotroph | Growth Hormone | Acromeg/gigan | Sparsely granulated GH cell |
| | | | Densely granulated GH cell |
| Lactotroph | Prolactin | Amen/galactor | Sparsely granulated prl |
| | | | Densely granulated prl |
| Somato/Lact | Gh+prl | Acro+hyperprl | Mixed GH-prl |
| | | Acro+hyperprl | Mammo+somato |
| | | Amen/Gal/Acro | Acido+stem cell |
| Corticotroph | Acth/Pomc /B-lph/Msh | Cushings, nelson | Densely granulated acth |
| | | | Sparsely granulated acth |
| Gonadotroph | FSH,LH,A-Sub Unit | Hypopituitarism | Gonadotroph |
| Thyrotroph | TSH, A-sub Unit | Hyperthyroid/ Hypopituitarism | Thyrotroph |
| NULL Cell | None | Hypopituitarism | Null cell |
| | | | oncocytoma |

# Introduction

- 15% of intracranial tumors
- Present as incidental finding in 5-20%
- Broadly divided
  (a) functional
  (b) non functional

# INVESTIGATION PROTOCOL

- History and physical examination
- Neuro- ophthalmology:
  Acuity, field, fundus and movements

- Hormone levels
  Basal hormone and dynamic testing
  Aim- hypersecretory state or insufficiency
- Radiology (a) X-Rays
  (b) MRI
  (c) NCCT/CECT
- Routine blood investigation

# Presentation

- Mass effect
- Hyper secretion/ hypo secretion
- Incidental finding
- Apoplexy

## Complete history and physical examination

- Eyes – visual acuity, visual field, fundoscopy
- Neck- thyroid ,carotid bruit
- Chest-gynaecomastia, galactorrhea
- Abdomen-striae, obesity
- Extremities-edema, enlargement
- Skin-pigment, hair, bruises

# MASS EFFECT

- Visual disturbances
  - Visual field defect usually very insidious and slowly progressive
  - Diplopia
  - Visual acuity
- Hydrocephalus
- Headache
- Cranial nerve palsies
- Raised intracranial pressure

- Apoplexy

  Acute presentation secondary to tumour haemorrhagic necrosis

- Headache
- Vomiting
- Blindness
- Ocular paresis
- Altered level of consciousness

- Prolactin

  Galactorrhoea , amennorrhoea, osteoporosis

- G.H

  Acromegaly, organomegaly, D.M,

- ACTH

  Cushing's disease, Diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, obesity, hypertension

- TSH

  Hyperthyroidism, cardiac dysrhythmia, heat intolerance

# Radiology

- X- Rays:
  Widening of sella
  Destruction of sellar floor
  Relation of median sphenoidal septum
  Aeration of sphenoid sinus- conchal
  sclerotic
  mixed

- NCCT+ CECT head/ sella with thin coronal cuts:
  - findings as seen in X-Rays
  - iso dense to adjacent brain parenchyma
  - intense contrast enhancement
  - calcifications uncommon (< 5%)
  - apoplexy- hyper density

- MRI brain:

Sagittal T!WI and coronal T1WI sellar and parasellar region with/without contrast 2.5mm thin contiguous slices and 5mm slices axial T2WI of whole brain.

Normal pituitary is iso intense to gray matter on T1WI with contrast enhancing

Pituitary adenoma classified based on size:

microadenoma <10mm

macroadenoma >10mm

giant pit adenoma >40mm

- Macro adenoma – they are hypo to isointense to gray matter on T1WI, contrast enhancing

- Micro adenomas– Dynamic contrast study done by 5 T1WI turbo spin 3mm thin slices repetitively at 20,40,60,80,100 sec after 10ml contrast injection at 2ml/sec.
  - Micro adenoma enhance and wash out quickly as compared to normal gland post contrast and hence appear hypointense
  - deviation of stalk
  - bulging of inferior and superior margin

# Hardy classification

- Pituitary adenoma:
  - Grade 0- size < 10 mm, sella normal
  - Grade 1- size < 10 mm, sella expanded
  - Grade 2- size > 10 mm , sella expanded
  - Grade 3- size > 10 mm, focal Destruction
  - Grade 4- size > 10 mm, diffuse destruction
  - Grade 5- distant spread

# Based on extension

- Suprasellar
  - 0- none
  - A- supra sellar cistern
  - B- ant recess of third ventricle obliterated
  - C- floor of third ventricle grossly displaced

- Parasellar
  - D- intracranial (intradural)
  - E- into or beneath the cavernous sinus

# Screening studies for pituitary lesion

- Hormone excess
  - serum prolactin
  - serum IGF-1
  - serum LH, FSH
  - serum  A sub unit
  - serum TSH
  - urinary24 hr  cortisol
- Hormone deficiency
  - serum cortisol
  - serum T4, free T3
  - serum testosterone (men)
  - serum estradiol  (women)

# Dynamic test to identify pituitary hypersecretion

Dynamic stimulation/suppression testing may be useful in select cases to further evaluate pituitary reserve and/or for pituitary hyperfunction

- Acromegaly
  Oral glucose test-

- Cushings syndrome/disease-
  (a)low dose dexamethasone
  (b)low dose dexamethasone +CRH
  (c)high dose dexamethasone
  (d)Inferior petrous sampling + CRH

# Dynamic test to identify pituitary deficiency

- ACTH – low dose ACTH by giving 1 mcg iv and S. cortisol after 30 min less than 18 mcg/dl identifies central adrenal deficiency

# Prolactinoma

- 30 to 50% of endocrine active tumors

- Clinical features:
- Amennorhoea  infertility, loss of libido, oligospermia
- Galactorrhoea in 80% females and 30% men
- Majority are microadenomas
- 30% of them in women are self limiting

# Prolactinoma

- Prolactin

  < 25 ng/ ml  normal

  25- 150ng/ml  prolactinoma, **stalk effect**, drugs , Hypothyroid

  > 150ng/ml- prolactinoma

- Hook effect- even large elevations will show normal PRL levels on testing due to large size of molecules. Do serial dilutions

- Not all hyperprolactinemia is due to a prolactinoma

## Causes of Hyperprolactinemia

- Medications
  - Psychotropic (e.g., haloperidol, resperidol)
  - Antidepressants (e.g., amoxapin)
  - Estrogen
  - Opiates
  - Calcium channel blocker (verapamil)
  - Antihypertensives (α methyldopa, reserpine)
  - Dopamine antagonists (domperidome, metoclopramide)
- Pituitary adenoma
  - Prolactin-secreting adenoma
  - GH-secreting adenoma
  - Secondary hyperprolactinemia, usually a macroadenoma
- Other pituitary lesion, e.g., metastatic, sarcoid, aneurysm
- Hypothalamic lesion
- Head trauma
- Pregnancy
- Spinal cord lesions
- Chest wall trauma
- Nipple stimulation

# Cushings disease

- 15% of all pituitary adenomas in adults
- 90% microadenomas
- Common in women
- 55 % pit adenoma in children
- Clinical features:

  Central obesity, purple striae, hypertension, diabetes, ecchymosis, poor wound healing, lipid abnormalities, neuropsyhiatric problems

# Cushings disease

- Best screening test- **24 hr UFC** level 95-100% sensitivity, 400 mcg/day of UFC is diagnostic.
- midnight plasma cortisol of 5.2mcg/dl is diagnostic of cushings
- Low dose dexamethasone test- 1 mg of dexa at 11.00 am and measurement of s. cortisol at 8.00 am

<5 mcg/dl- normal

5-10 mcg/dl equivocal

>10mcg diagnostic

- **Plasma corticotropin level-** >20pg/ml diagnostic
  >10 pg/ml suggestive
  <5pg/ml corticotroph independent

# Cushings disease

- **High dose dexa suppression test**- if corticotrops >10 pg/ml . 2mg of dexa given every 6hrly for 2 days, if > 69% fall in 24 hr UFC (pre and post dexa ) is 100% specific for CD

- **8 mg dexamethasone test** -8 mg dexamethasone is given at 11.00 pm and drop in >50% s. cortisol indicates CD

- **Corticotropin releasing hormone stimulation test**- I mcg/kg CRH iv in morning, if increases >35% corticotropin level at 15, 30 min above baseline yields 100% specificity and 93% sensitivity for CD

# Cushings disease

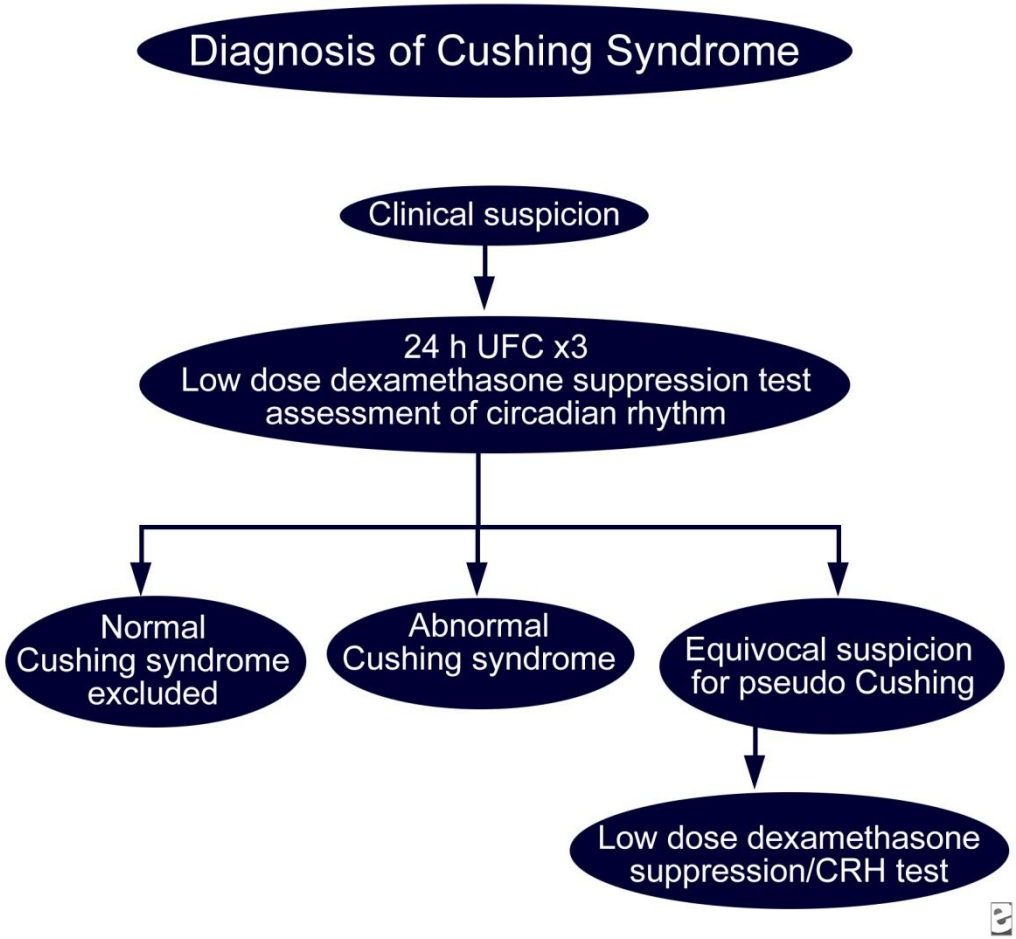
- Inferior petrosal sinus sampling
  - classical clinical and biochemical CD features with MRI negative patient
  - equivocal suppression and stimulation test

Diagnostic accuracy is 80-100% , blood samples are obtained at basal and 3,5,10 min after CRH administration and ips/ps ratio calculated

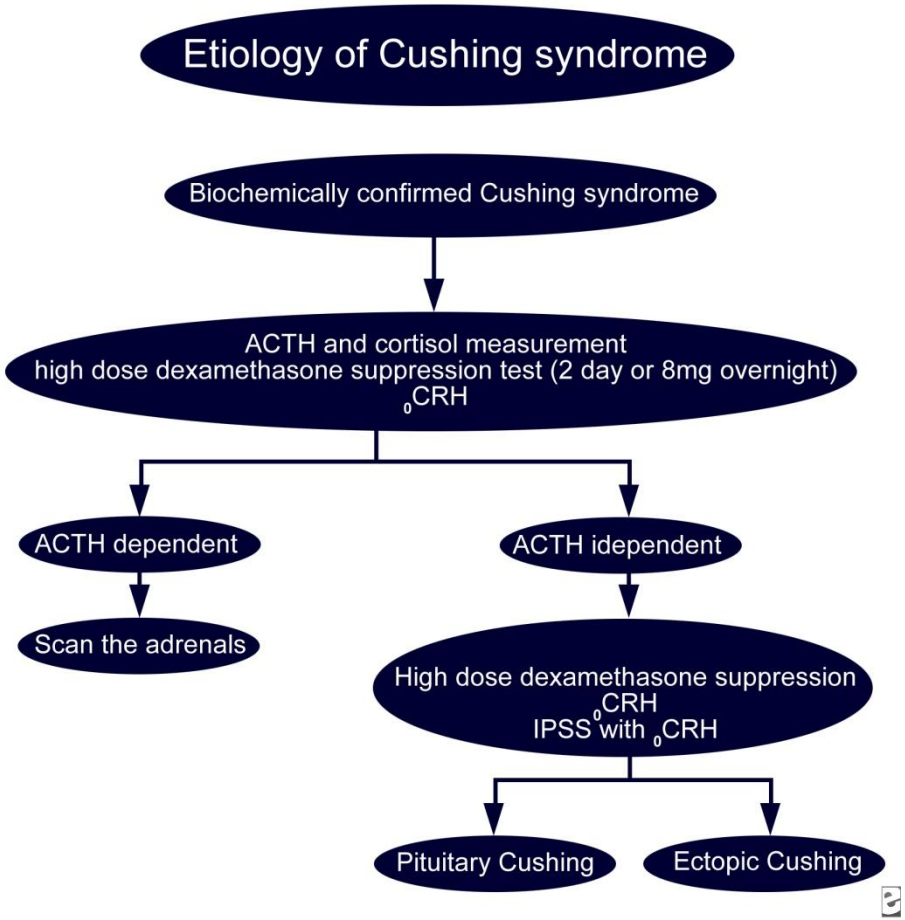
| | |
|---|---|
| ips/ps >3 | CD |
| ips/ps <2 | ectopic |
| rarely 2-3 | ectopic |

IPS gradient helps in lateralization of adenoma

# Cushing's syndrome



# Cushing's syndrome



# Acromegaly

- 4th decade of life
- 10.7 years
- Constitute 20% of all pituitary tumors
- Preop duration 10 years to diagnosis in adults and 3.1 years in children
- Pleuri hormonal

# ACROMEGALY

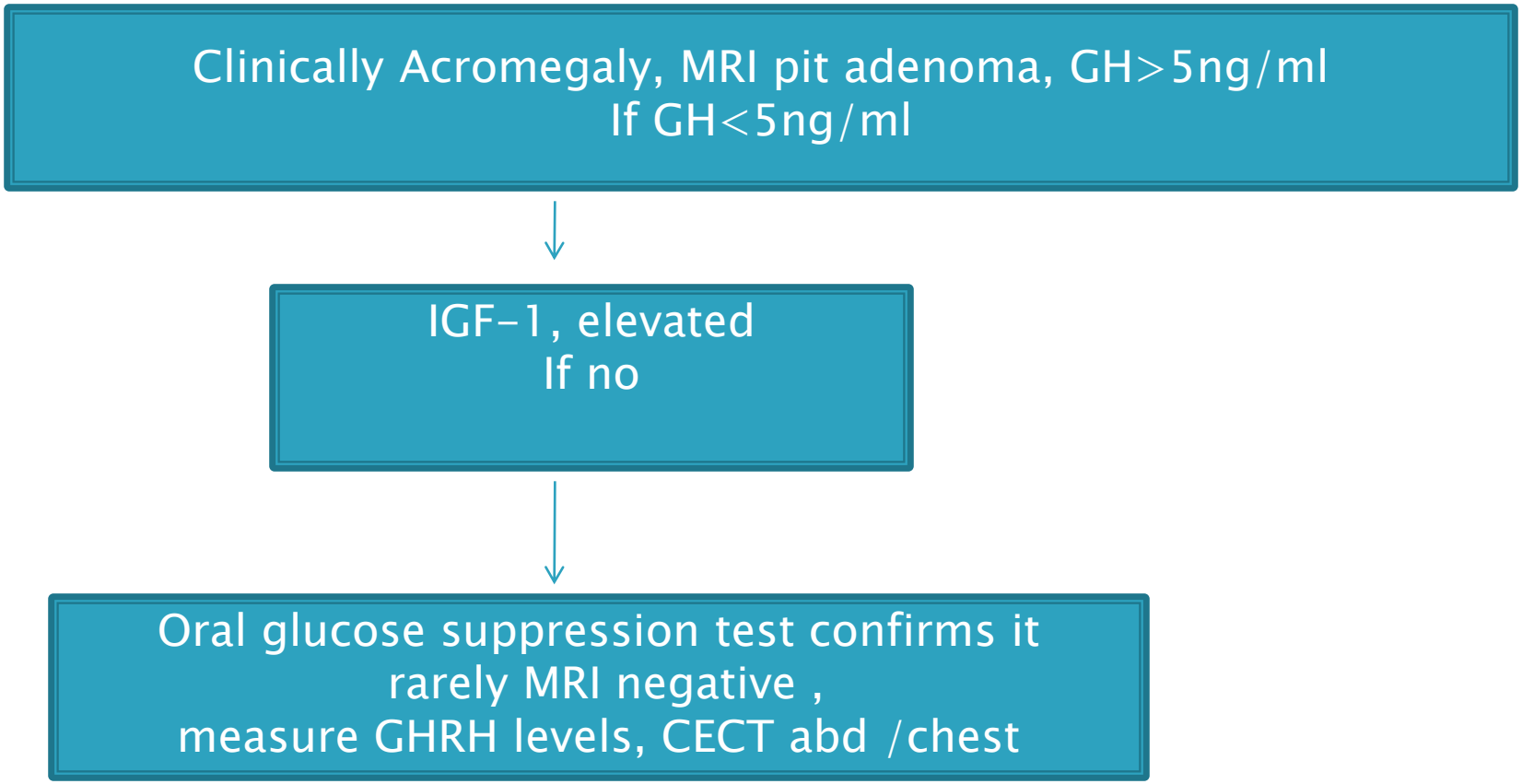
- Prepuberty-gigantism & precocious puberty
- Pubescent-amenorrhea, hypogonadism
- Adults-skeletal and soft tissue overgrowth and deformities, cardiac ,neuromuscular, respiratory, endocrine, metabolic complications and neoplastic transformation

- Random GH – not useful gives false positive and false negative results
- Insulin like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) – best for screening represents average daily GH secretion
- Oral glucose GH suppression testing – gold standard to confirm diagnosis :75 mg of glucose load normally suppresses GH > 2ng/ml RIA. GH nadir >2ng/ml RIA with adenoma confirms it
- GHRH stimulation test

# ACROMEGALY

- Chest and abdomen imaging for ectopic GHRH secreting tumors
- Empty sella shows pituitary infarction
- Scintigraphy
- Ancillary tests

  Blood glucose, urine, cardiac and respiratory
  Screening for colorectal neoplasia


Clinically Acromegaly, MRI pit adenoma, GH>5ng/ml
If GH<5ng/ml
IGF-1, elevated
If no
Oral glucose suppression test confirms it
rarely MRI negative ,
measure GHRH levels, CECT abd /chest

# Thyrotroph adenoma

- TSH secreting tumors
- 1-2% of pit adenomas
- Mixed hormonal secretion- 30%
  GH, PRL, Gonadotropins
- 90% macroadenomas
- Mean duration pt 9 yrs
- Clinical features of goitre, warm skin, heat intolerance, cardiac arrhythmias and other hyperthyroid features,

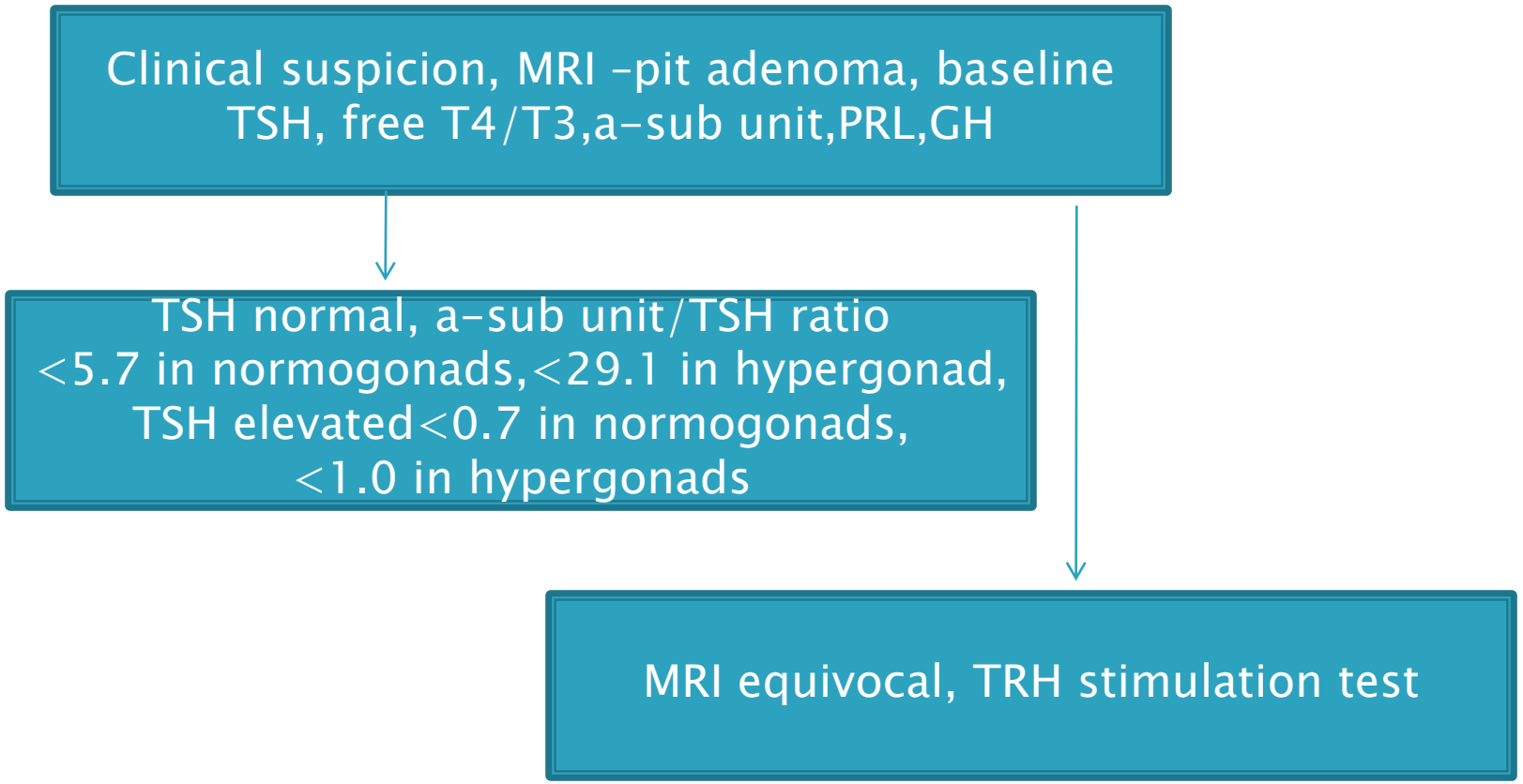
# Thyrotroph adenoma

- Lab investigations

  TSH, Free t4,t3by direct method
  a-subunit, PRL, GH, SHB

Iodine scan/USG of thyroid

Dynamic testing with TRH


Clinical suspicion, MRI –pit adenoma, baseline TSH, free T4/T3,a-sub unit,PRL,GH
TSH normal, a-sub unit/TSH ratio <5.7 in normogonads,<29.1 in hypergonad, TSH elevated<0.7 in normogonads, <1.0 in hypergonads
MRI equivocal, TRH stimulation test

# Gonadotropinomas

- 7-15% of pit adenomas
- 40-50 % macroadenomas secrete gonadotropins
- Clinical features of mass effect:  visual symptoms, hypogonadism, amennorrhea, hypothyroid, hypocortisolism

# Gonadotropinomas

- Lab investigations
  basal hormonal levels
  TRH stimulated gonadotropins, and sub units

  normally causes absent FSH response and no more than 33% increase in LH and b- LH

  primary hypogonadism LH,FSH elevated and don't respond to TRH

  gonadotropinomas have greater than 60% increase in b-LH levels

# Multidisciplinary approach

Hormonal status-endocrinologist
Visual field -orthoptist
Monitor tumor recurrence -radiologist
Clinical observation-neurosurgeon
Blood test-biochemist

THANK YOU