

Differential Diagnosis for Pheo

The clinical presentation of pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma can be highly variable, with similar signs and symptoms produced by numerous other clinical conditions. Therefore the tumor is often referred to as the "great mimic". Distinguishing pheochromocytoma from these and other less common conditions can be a challenge.

Endocrine

- ✓ hyperthyroidism, thyroid storm
- ✓ carcinoid
- ✓ hypoglycemia (often due to the presence of insulinoma)
- ✓ medullary thyroid carcinoma
- ✓ mastocytosis
- ✓ menopausal syndrome

Cardiovascular

- ✓ baroreflex failure

Neurologic

- ✓ migraine or cluster headaches
- ✓ diencephalic autonomic epilepsy
- ✓ meningioma
- ✓ POTS (postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome)/ dysautonomia
- ✓ Guillain-Barre syndrome

Psychogenic

- ✓ anxiety or panic attacks
- ✓ factitious use of drugs
- ✓ hyperventilation

Pharmacologic

- ✓ tricyclic antidepressant
- ✓ cocaine
- ✓ alcohol withdrawal
- ✓ drugs stimulating adrenergic receptors
- ✓ abrupt clonidine withdrawal
- ✓ ephedrine-containing drugs
- ✓ factitious use of various drugs including catecholamines