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CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA
for
BEHÇET'S DISEASE

There is no test for Behçet's disease and symptoms do not have to come simultaneously or be present all the time. It is not essential to have presented all 5 'major' criteria. Being positive for B-51 tissue-type is not required.

In the absence of any other cause

International research guidelines

(strictly defined to ensure homogeneity of research cohorts)

Mouth ulcers recurrent at least 3 times in any 1 year plus 2 of the following at any time

- Recurrent genital ulceration (including groin and anus, epididymitis, orchitis)
- Eye inflammation (iritis, uveitis, retinal vasculitis, cells in the vitreous)
- Skin lesions (papulopustules, pseudofolliculitis, erythema nodosum, acne in post-adolescents not on corticosteroids)
- Pathergy (raised erythematous papule at site of needle prick 24 to 48 hours or more later)
Referred to as 'major' criteria

Clinical non-research guidelines

(less strictly defined and for practical diagnosis in the clinic)

Mouth ulcers with any 1 of the 4 major criteria above plus 2 of the following

Referred to as 'minor' criteria

- Arthritis/arthralgia (any joints)
- Thrombophlebitis, deep vein thrombosis
- CNS symptoms and lesions
- Depression, personality changes, psychoses
- Oesophagitis, gastric inflammation/ulceration
- Irritable bowel syndrome, inflamed bowel
- Urinary tract inflammation
- Cardio-vascular symptoms
- Hearing loss, tinnitus, vertigo
- Wheeziness, shadows on chest X-ray, haemoptysis, pleurisy
- Profound exhaustion
- Family history

'Suspected' or 'unconfirmed' diagnoses may be made on fewer criteria, but all levels of classification are based on the clinician's judgment and experience.